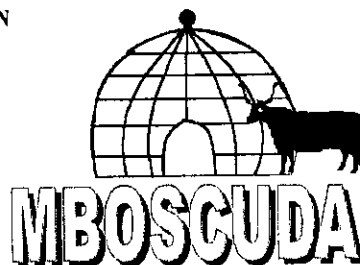


MBORORO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION OF CAMEROON  
NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
P.O. Box 221 BAMENDA CAMEROON  
Tel. 23733363624/77789487  
Email: mboscuda@yahoo.co.uk



EM-10MUSQ-110  
ASSOCIATION POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT SOCIAL  
ET CULTUREL DES MBORORO DU CAMEROUN  
COMMIT EXECUTIVE DE LA PROVINCE  
DU NORD OUEST  
B.P: 221 BAMENDA CAMEROUN  
Tel. 23777789487 / 33363624

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"Organization with special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations"

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## **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Right of Indigenous Peoples**

**Mbororo Social and Cultural Development  
Association (MBOSCUA)  
Agenda item 4 UNDRP.**

**Speaker: Musa Usman Ndamba,  
*1<sup>st</sup> vice National President***

**July 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Mr. Chairman, distinguish Personalities, Indigenous Peoples Leaders.

Permit me extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to *International committee for Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (Incomindios)* for their financial support which enabled me to here today.

The Mbororo are cattle-herding pastoralists who can be found in many sub-Saharan countries in Africa. In Cameroon, they number about 2.5 million people who live in all the ten regions of the country. Mbororo Pastoralists self-identify themselves as one of the indigenous peoples of Cameroon with some level of Government recognition. However, the term “marginalized population” or “marginal” is preferred to the term “indigenous” when it comes to defining who the Mbororo people are in the context of Cameroon. As a people with nomadic history in search for greener pastures for their livestock, sedenterisation has always not been easy for the Mbororo. Still largely semi-nomadic at present, they are largely illiterate (about 95% of the population), underprivileged and isolated from most development changes that have been taking place in Cameroon. Confronted with Climate change, commercial land pressures and farmer/grazier conflict has make the pastoralist peoples in African almost endangers peoples.

Mr. Chairman, distinguish Personalities, Indigenous Peoples Leaders

Although some efforts are being made by the Cameroonian government to see that the UNDRIP is implemented, the recent statement made by the Cameroon Minister foreign Affairs during a Central African regional workshop for Indigenous Peoples, pointing out that only the pygmy Baka community are recognized by the Government Cameroon as Indigenous seriously undermines UNDRIP and the Mbororo right for self identification.

The International Day of the Indigenous Peoples has been officially celebrated in Cameroon for the past two years—mostly spearheaded by the Ministry of Social Affairs together with other United Nations agencies like the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the UN Regional Centre for Human Rights in Central Africa. I will like to remark that Cameroon is one of the states that have supported the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples and there is some progress in that regard.

The Mbororo people continue to face a lot of setbacks—especially in regards to human rights violations in the North West Region. The Mbororo Community is denied their right to freely choose their traditional leader. Following the dead of the formal traditional leader of the Mbororo Community of the North West Region of Cameroon, the Local administration imposed their choice of candidate against the wish of the Mbororo Indigenous Peoples. In violation of articles 4, 5, 18, 19 and 20 of the UNDRIP and also their right to decision making which destabilized the traditional institution and the community.

Mr. Chairman, Multi millionaires and cooperate owners continue to seize Mbororo peoples land in complicity with corrupts government official with such impunity, Thereby rendering them even more vulnerable to exploitation and human rights abuses. In a flagrant violation article 10 and 26 of the UNDRIP.

Finally, MBOSCUDA members and executives continue to be harassed and threatened –and sometime suffer detention making it difficult for the organization to fully operate.

In response to these issues, MBOSCUDA and others have sought out local and national avenues, including international lobbies and advocacy. This has resulted to the creation of several commissions and fact-finding missions by the Cameroon government which unfortunately have achieved very little or no results. In 2007, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights and fundamental freedom of indigenous peoples sent a communiqué to the Cameroon government with recommendations in regards to the human rights abuses against Mbororo people. To this day, we have not seen a change and the suffering of the Mbororo people is continuing.

Mr. Chairman, distinguish Personalities, Indigenous Peoples Leaders

As regard education in accordance with article 14 and 15, this is one of our priority areas, MBOSCUDA has constructed and equipped several Primary Schools with many classrooms, provided didactic materials and scholarship to Mbororo Children especially girls who are often neglected when it comes to who is going to school. As we are barely 5 Years to 2015 the target time frame for the MDGs in relation to the Universal Primary Education for all by 2015, it still remain a distance dream for the Mbororo Indigenous community in Cameroon as access to educational facility remain a big challenge.

As regard to health, in accordance with article 23 and 24, MBOSCUDA is now lobbying for the inclusion of Mbororo community on the Cameroon Government health plan which unfortunately they were excluded for no apparent reason. This has made it impossible for the Mbororo to join the rest of the world in achieving the UN MDGs regarding health issues and access to health facility by 2015.

Recommendation:

1. Therefore, we urge that a follow-up be made regarding the communiqué sent to Cameroon from the office of the UN Special Rapporteur.
2. Urge the Cameroon Government to invite the UN Special Rapporteur to visit Cameroon for on the spot assessment of the situation of indigenous peoples in Cameroon.
3. We therefore humbly call on the Cameroonian Government to accelerate the implementation of the UNDRIP and to sign and ratify ILO Convention 169 for the benefit of the Indigenous Peoples of Cameroon.
4. Call on the Relevance UN system to provide capacity building support to the Government agencies and the Indigenous peoples organization necessary to implement the UNDRIP.

Thank you for your attention.