



**UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,
16th Session**

New York, 24 April – 5 May 2017

Agenda Item 10

This statement is jointly submitted by: Forest Peoples Programme (UK) and the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA),

We would like to take the opportunity of this dialogue with the Chair of EMRIP to express our serious concern in relation to the granting by the World Bank of a full waiver allowing the Government of Tanzania to receive considerable funding from the World Bank without applying the World Banks safeguard policy for indigenous peoples (Operational Policy 4.10 or in brief OP4.10).

In this regard we would like to recommend to the UN Permanent Forum the following:

- Noticing that the World Bank has issued a waiver to its policy on indigenous peoples (OP4.10) relating to the SAGCOT project, Tanzania, and
- fearing the precedence that this may have for the World Bank policy as well as other policies on indigenous issues:

That The Permanent Forum therefore urges the Executive Board of the World Bank to immediately revise the Bank's position on the application of the OP4.10 in the SAGCOT project and refrain from taking this step on any other Bank projects.

The waiver was granted in March 2016 in relation to a 70 million US\$ World Bank loan to the government of Tanzania for the “Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania” (known as SAGCOT). SAGCOT is a huge private/public agribusiness investment project extending over approximately one third of Tanzania's territory from Dar es Salaam through Morogoro, Iringa, Mbeya and West Sumbawanga Regions. The project aims at converting 350.000 hectares of land into commercial agricultural production. The waiver implies that the requirements of OP4.10 for protecting the rights of indigenous peoples are formally set aside for the implementation of this project.

This decision prompted indigenous peoples' organizations from Tanzania and East Africa at large to send a letter of protest to the World Bank in June 2016. Similarly, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) sent a letter to the World Bank expressing their serious concern with the decision.

Furthermore, the US abstained from voting and clearly expressed its disagreement with issuing the waiver.

We find that granting the waiver is highly problematic in a number of ways:

Firstly, the waiver was granted without any prior consultations with and informed consent by the indigenous peoples in Tanzania



– including the many groups of indigenous peoples who live in the SAGCOT project areas. IWGIA and FPP find that there is a real risk that the SAGCOT project might lead to violations of indigenous peoples' rights.

Secondly, the waiver was granted without thorough and convincing justification.

Thirdly, the waiver disregards the fact that there are indeed many groups in Tanzania at large and in the SAGCOT project area in particular who self-identify as indigenous peoples,

Fourthly, as also recognized by the World Bank, the SAGCOT project is a high risk operation. Many of the areas in which the SAGCOT project is situated are highly conflict ridden and human rights violations frequently occur.

Thank you for your attention.