

To

The Chairperson

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

18<sup>th</sup> Session, UN HQS New York, USA

April 23, 2019

**Item 9: ‘Indigenous Peoples’ Traditional Knowledge, Generation, transmission and Protection’’**

Dear Madam Chairperson,

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you for being appointed the Chairperson of the Forum, also congratulate the Co-chairs and the Rapporteur of the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNPFII.

Madam Chairperson, I represent indigenous Ogiek Community through Ogiek Peoples’ Development Program (OPDP) in Kenya and other indigenous communities in Africa where we are affiliated. Traditional Knowledge is what define Indigenous Peoples and it gives them comparative advantage over any other, it runs through generations, we have no options but to transmit and protect for posterity. Transmission of Traditional knowledge is effective when done and conveyed through our indigenous languages as was discussion yesterday, the promotion, protection and preservation of our Indigenous Languages is key to the survival of indigenous languages globally. Land and territories of IPs is integral in transmission of traditional knowledge, hence the need to respect and IPs lands and territories.

Madam Chairperson, *let me cite the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of Permanent Forum, it recommended that States and the United Nations system, including United Nations country teams, **provide support, including funding, for the efforts of indigenous peoples’ institutions to preserve and revitalize their languages**, with the particular goal of fluency. Such efforts may include the sharing of positive experiences and the establishment of informal networks or caucuses involved in the promotion and revitalization of indigenous languages, as well as the use of information and communications technology in indigenous languages. It is important that States provide adequate funding for language revitalization and the preservation of cultural heritage as it*

*relates to indigenous languages. In addition, States should facilitate funding for indigenous language projects from external donors, including the private sector, in accordance with law.*

In my organization we have affirmed the role of youths and women in transmission of traditional knowledge, we have tilted our projects and programmes towards strengthening the youths and women as key carriers of the resource. Promotion of cultural days through folk songs and dance, promotion of traditional food-Slow food programmes for the health of our people. Our youths are key drivers of social media, for us to achieve positive results we need package our TK transmission mechanism platform to conform to the current technological dynamics. This year our organization through the recommendation of youths are having an Ogiek writing competition, the 1<sup>st</sup> round ends on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The purpose of this programme is to enhance the role of youths in ensuring the sustainability of Ogiek language amidst looming assimilation and threats of some indigenous languages.

Madam Chairperson, we call upon UN agencies, UNESCO, WIPO, States, partners and private sector to support IPs in documenting their Traditional Knowledge as envisaged in CBD Article 8j and Article 10c. The use of consultant and researchers in documenting Traditional Knowledge has robbed IPs, in the name of lack of capacity. It is high time we strengthening IPs and their grassroots organization in documenting their work in the form and language the find it fit.

Thank you madam

Daniel M. Kobei

Executive Director, Ogiek Peoples Development Proram(OPDP)

[dkobei@ogiekpeoples.org](mailto:dkobei@ogiekpeoples.org) / [dkobei@yahoo.com](mailto:dkobei@yahoo.com)

[www.ogiekpeoples.org](http://www.ogiekpeoples.org) , twitter @OgiekPeoples

