

***Expert mechanism on the right of Indigenous people.***

***A joint statement by SAMUSA-NETWORK presented by ISA Adamu***

***Indigenous Fellow***

***Geneva, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015.***

*Agenda Item No. 8 UNDRIP*

Mr. Chairperson,

Distinguished members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Delegates of Member States,

Representatives of indigenous peoples and organizations,

Ladies and gentlemen

I will first of all thank the UN Voluntary Fund for the opportunity to participate as an Indigenous fellow at OHCHR. I have gain good skills that will permit me to lobby and advocate for the right of Mbororo people in Cameroon.

Cameroon voted in favour of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007. After this vote the Government of Cameroon started celebrating the world Indigenous Day. Mbororo representatives have been involved by some government departments in developing policies and strategies on indigenous people and also in various National and International Days.

However, despite these positive steps, there are no concrete actions to implement or enforce laws, findings, policies, treaties and decisions to protect the Mbororo from discrimination, injustices and marginalisation.

Recently, the second phase of the study on the identification of indigenous peoples in Cameroon was launched by the Ministry of External Relations without informing or involving the stakeholders. This procedure appears opaque and has many flaws. This situation is of great concern to the Mbororo people in Cameroon.

Attempts at demarcating communal grazing (national) lands and communal farming lands have either been inadequate or completely absent.

Government officials come from the farming communities so they have similar biased views on grazing to those of their dominant communities.

Also, a discriminatory tax that has existed in Cameroon for over 100 years called *Jangali* Tax. The tax is inherently unfair and discriminatory because it

is levied on cattle and horses owned by individuals for subsistence and cultural reasons and not for purely economic purposes.

The Mbororo people of Cameroon face serious threats to their existence as a people. Farmers on daily basis with the support of the local administration encroach into the grazing land without the Free, Prior, Informed, and Consent of the Mbororo pastoralists.

Mr Chair there is by no means, exhaustive or isolated cases are serious violations the Universal Declaration on the right of Indigenous by the Cameroon government. We will like that EMRI through the Human Right council to urge Cameroon government to comply with its international obligations enshrined in its Constitution and we make the following **recommendations.**

- **The Government should take proper action and measures to protect the grazing lands of Mbororo pastoralists especially cases of Santa Sub-Division, Esu ,Mayo Gadé ,Ndawara and Boyo Divison.**
- **For the process of identification of Indigenous peoples in Cameroon the government should involve experts on indigenous issues; indigenous representatives in carrying out a study on the identification of Indigenous peoples in Cameroon and this study should be carried out Nationwide and not in only one region.**
- **To consider the Mbororo pastoralists in the Emergency plan put forward by the Government for the 2035 Development Goal.**
- **Take concrete measures to guarantee indigenous access to employment, decision making, health and education and stop illegal evictions of grazers from their lands, extortion, arbitrary arrests and abusive detentions without trial.**
- **Review the situation of Mbororo pastoralists in Santa Sub-Division.**

Thank you for your kind attention

Endorsed by

- **Cameroon Indigenous Women Forum (FFAC)**