

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

10th Session

Provisional Agenda Item 4: Study and advice on good practices and challenges in business and in access to financial services by indigenous peoples

Oral Statement Presented by: Samina Murad, from Hunza Gilgit Baltistan Tribal Area, Pakistan.

Body of Statement:

Thank You Mr. Chairperson

I want to highlight the China Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC" is a major recent economic development project, agreed upon by both governments and huge investments have been forecasted with major road infrastructure passing through Gilgit-Baltistan. People of Gilgit-Baltistan are entitled to compensation under this joint venture, but until now they have been deprived of their rights and feel the general public ignores the precarity of their situation prevailing. This is as my People feel that they are not sufficiently informed and involved in the decision making of this project.

This speaks to UN declaration rights of indigenous people (UNDRIP) article 18 and 19.

Firstly Article 18 highlight the rights to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect our rights

Secondly article 19 highlights consultation and cooperation in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

My question is that we want to know exactly how this project will benefit people of Gilgit Baltistan.

In this regard I would like to make following recommendations:

Social economic and environment impact assessment be conducted with full participation of Gilgit community.

Second it must be assure that this project will adhere to the standard set by UN declaration.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson as well as the Indigenous Fellowship Program for give me this opportunity to speak.