

24th Session of the UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS,
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INTERVENTION BY: JOHN LENSURU of the BUREAU of CONSULTATION for
WEST PAPUA INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thank you Mr Chairman,

I would like to begin by thanking Minority Rights Group International, who have sponsored my participation at this year's working group.

To all the honourable ladies and gentlemen and especially to my sisters and brothers representing fellow indigenous peoples. My name is John Lensru and I am a representative of the West Papua Indigenous Peoples. I would like to use my intervention to inform you of the results for Indigenous Peoples, of Community Development Program's implemented in West Papua by UN agencies, the Indonesian government and other international actors

West Papua is a territory in the Pacific area, that integrated into the Republic of Indonesia via the New York Agreement of August the 15th 1962.

Since then, for the last 44 years, the Indonesian government has executed many Development Programs. Yet the benefits which Development can bring, have had little effect on the peoples of West Papua, who are still living the traditional way of life

Various United Nations Agencies, including the WHO, the UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF and a variety of sympathetic stakeholders and other international agencies, have also implemented many Community Development Programs. Yet also these programs have failed to touch the lives of indigenous peoples, especially those from grass-roots communities, who are living in isolated villages.

Mr Chairman,

For this moment, I would like to take the opportunity, to focus on the programs implemented by UN agencies. The failure of these programs has resulted because these Agencies have not involved the Indigenous Peoples in program design and implementation. That is why I describe the role of the Indigenous Peoples of West Papua, as that of the 'spectator to' and not that of the 'actor' in Development Programs.

In 2005, Mr Domingo Nayahangan, the chief technical adviser of the ILO Papua, tried to address the inclusion of indigenous peoples in ILO programs. Mr Nayahangan developed a new strategic methodology titled 'The Community Driven Participatory Approach' and as a result some indigenous peoples were able to become involved in the implementation of programs. It was hoped that the new approach of the ILO would lead to programs which are more effective for indigenous peoples and set a standard for inclusion. Yet the ILO only made a Memorandum of Understanding with the government at provincial level and did not ensure the involvement of the... [part missing]

