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"Organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council since 2011"

PERMANENT FORUM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – 13th Session

Submitted on behalf of Assyrian Aid Society-Iraq

Item 3 - Open dialogue (Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, United Nations agencies).

Delivered by Nora Michael
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Dear Chairperson, brothers and sisters, children of indigenous peoples, ladies and gentlemen, greetings. Shlama lokhon oo Bshena hdeeretoon l'aha jmeta,

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I am making this statement on behalf of Assyrian Aid Society, Iraq.

Articles 3 and 4 of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples call for self-determination of indigenous peoples. Self-determination is vital for Assyrians in Iraq, and is particularly relevant to this year's discussion of good governance, as a lack thereof permits humans rights violations of indigenous people to occur.

Our wish is to establish incentives that encourage our people to remain in Iraq where our language, culture and nationality can be best preserved. We hope that international and regional organizations will join us in our endeavor.

A significant threat to the existence of Assyrians in Iraq, as the indigenous people of Iraq, is their immigration from Iraq and internal displacement within Iraq. Internal displacement is a result of a number of factors, including civil unrest, religious intolerance and extremism.

