

STATEMENT OF TANZANIA INDIGENOUS PASTORALISTS AND HUNTER-GATHERERS FORUM

By

1. **PINGOs Forum**
2. **Paicodeo**
3. **LCDO**
4. **MPIDO**
5. **ILEPA**
6. **MAA Civil Society Forum**
7. **Indigenous Peoples National Steering Committee on Climate Change**

Under Item 4:

Discussion on the African region

Wednesday 23rd May 2013

Mr chair,

We will like to congratulate you for your election of this twelfth session of the permanent on indigenous issues. This is evidence and a sign of existence of indigenous in Africa to the African states that are denying existence of indigenous peoples in their states.

Mr Chair,

I would like to talk about eviction and other violations of human right to indigenous peoples in Tanzania. The government of The United Republic of Tanzania has conducted and is still conducting evictions to indigenous peoples in different parts of the country. The Barbaig, Maasai, Hadzabe, Tatoga and Dorobo ethnic groups recognized by the African Union are among the communities that suffer losses of their means of livelihoods through a process that does not recognize their livelihood and their human right. Some of these recent evictions include, Loliondo, Kilosa, Kilombero, Ulanga, Mbarali, Hanang, Meatu, and further eviction threats are in different areas of the country.

Mr chair,

The land that has been reported before you by the Tanzania representative as an equal of Luxemburg is a home of 67,000 indigenous peoples from eight registered villages of Oloosokwa, Soit Sambu, Oloipiri, Maaloni, Sukenya, Arash among others. In 2009 the government evicted indigenous people in Loliondo causing serious violation of human rights including burning homes, beating, unlawful prosecution, intimidation etc. Is also a land of indigenous peoples where they were settled in 1959 by the colonial power after being restricted from the great Serengeti National which was originally their land. So it is not true that Indigenous peoples are being given that land; it is there and had never been anybody's else land. Further the government is intending to give that land to an investor for luxury hunting. So it is not true that the government is giving indigenous peoples land but rather grabbing 1500 sq km from them and leaving them with land that is unsuitable for their livelihood

Mr Chair

Among the gross violations of human rights of indigenous peoples in Tanzania include intimidations, unlawful prosecution, land alienation and marginalization from social services provision as well as lack of legal recognition. This also include threats to their CSOs

State authorities have been increasingly and arbitrarily dispossessing the indigenous peoples of their lands and natural resource to facilitate foreign and local investors to grab indigenous peoples land.

Further to that Mr chair, Indigenous peoples lands are nominated as World Heritage sites Under UNESCO without recognition of the livelihood and existence of Indigenous People. In Ngorongoro Conservation area, pastoral economy is facing severe stress and therefore leading to vulnerability and food insecurity. It is now more than a year since harsh drought hit the Ngorongoro Division. A huge majority of the estimated 70,000 indigenous peoples of the area are facing acute hunger and starvation This situation lead to migration of youth to urban areas to work as watchmen and women engaging in prostitution, which put their life at risk of being affected by HIV and loss of traditional culture. The present hunger situation has also been attributed by the Government decision in 2009 that re-imposed the ban on cultivation without coming with an alternative means of livelihood and food security for the local community in the Conservation Area. International conservation actors such as UNESCO and IUCN cannot deny culpability in the present hunger situation since they are known to have pressurized the Government to re-impose the ban on cultivation owing to a perceived deterioration of the integrity of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area as World Heritage Site.

The same is happening in Kilombero Ramsa site where pastoralists, in 2011, were evicted on ground that they are residing the Kilombero Ramsa site. This has affected Parakuiyo Maasai, and Barbaig pastoralists; and Taturu and Sukuma agro-pastoralists in Kilombero and Ulanga districts in Morogoro Region. In this eviction more than 5,000 people have been eviction-causing loss of more than 400000 livestock in 2013. It is found in our statistics and different reports that between 2011 and 2013 more than 15 pastoralists were shot dead in in different districts and protected areas such as Kilombero, Ulanga, Kilosa, Morogoro rural and Selous Game Reserve and Mikumi National Parks allegedly for invading the protected areas. In the period between 2010 and 2012 a total of 212 livestock were shot dead by Park rangers in Mikumi National Park. At the same time there have been reports of cases of indigenous peoples being taken hostage by park rangers and police until when the pay ransom ranging from US\$1,000 – 3,000.

Mr chair,

I would also like to remind the government of Tanzania of the November 12th 13th and 14th 2012 Concluding observation The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights when considering the initial third periodic reports of the United Republic of (E/C.12/2012/SR.31-33), which was adopted, at its 58th meeting held on 30 November 2012, the following concluding observations no 22 and 29 were raised.

- That the establishment of game reserves, the granting of licenses for hunting, or other projects on ancestral lands is preceded by free, prior and informed consent of the people affected.
- The State party ensures that vulnerable communities, including pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities, are effectively protected from forced evictions from traditional lands.
- That past forced evictions and violations that have taken place during those evictions are properly investigated, that perpetrators are brought to justice, that the findings are made public, and that those evicted are offered adequate
- That the State party take legislative and other measures to protect, preserve and promote the cultural heritage and traditional ways of life of vulnerable communities, such as hunter-gatherer and pastoralist communities.
- That the state party ensures their meaningful participation in the debates related to nature conservation, commercial hunting, tourism and other uses of the land, based on free, prior and informed consent.

Chair,

These are among the very important recommendations and concerns of indigenous peoples that the government of Tanzania is turning a deaf hear and blind eye to. We call upon that all Indigenous Peoples in the world and their organizations as represented in the Permanent Forum to give a hand of solidarity and support to Indigenous Peoples of Tanzania at this time of their difficulty.

We further call upon state parties and other UN bodies present here to seriously interrogate the government of The United republic of Tanzania in respect of her commitment to human right and specifically the rights of indigenous Pastoralists and Hunter-gatherers

We further urge the state parties and the permanent forum, to put more pressure on the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, to promptly respond to the issues raised by different UN mechanisms as well as responding to call and request for a visit by the special rapporteur to the United Republic of Tanzania

The permanent forum should also urge the government to ensure that all investments or programmes undertaken in indigenous peoples' lands must protect the rights of indigenous peoples to access and use of water and pastures. The government should make sure that no future investment plans are implemented without free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples.

Thank you Chair