

**MINDANAO CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND THE LUMAD PEOPLE**  
**Presented by. Mr. ALIM M. BANDARA**

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Agenda item 4 (c) Indigenous peoples and conflict prevention and  
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Greetings of peace and solidarity from the people of Mindanao, Philippines! I am Alim Bandara of the Lumad people of Mindanao. Thank you very much Chairperson for giving me the opportunity to intervene on "agenda item 4 (c) Indigenous peoples and conflict prevention and resolution".

In this connection, I would like to share in this forum the war and conflict situation of the Lumad peoples of Mindanao. We are affected by the war and conflict resolution processes conducted between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the different Bangsamoro revolutionary forces such as that of the Moro National Liberation Front and Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

In August of 1996, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and Moro National Liberation Front signed a peace agreement to end the war in Mindanao. Sadly however, the Lumad people were not given chance to present their views on the resolution of the so called Mindanao peace problem. As a result, some Lumad territories were offered by the Philippine government to the rebel forces as peace project sites like logging concessions, plantations, re-settlement areas and rehabilitation camps without undergoing the Free and Prior Informed Consent of the affected Lumads communities.

Today, there is another round of peace negotiations conducted by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines with another faction of the Moro revolutionary forces now the MILF or Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The main agenda is ANCESTRAL DOMAIN AND SELF-GOVERNANCE.

The problem Chairperson is although each party recognizes that the ancestral domain and self-governance agenda is also the utmost concern of the Lumad people of Mindanao, there is no genuine representation of the Lumad people in the peace negotiation.

I presented this issue not to undermine the ongoing peace process in Mindanao my dear brothers and sisters. We welcome peace. But a peace that will guarantee our inherent rights for ancestral domain and self-governance and which will be in accordance with the provisions of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), so that the peace will be genuine and sustainable for all stakeholders.

Thank you Chairperson.