

EXPERT MEETING ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – EMRIP
ITEM 9 - 13 JULY 2017

FUTURE WORK OF THE EXPERT MECHANISM, INCLUDING FOCUS OF NEXT ANNUAL STUDY

ON BEHALF OF THE **INDIGENOUS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES GLOBAL NETWORK**

SPEAKER: **MANASE NTUTU**, AFRICAN FOCAL POINT IPWDGN

Dear Chairperson, sisters and brothers,

We, the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network, thank for your kind attention and relevant work to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples across the world under the UN Human Rights Council, including our rights, of indigenous persons with disabilities,

We bring here today our joint voices from all regions - before your Expert Mechanism - to reinforce our very identity as indigenous peoples first! It is equally true that we are persons with disabilities, and both identities are relevant in our cultures and way to understand the world, but we want to highlight here our indigenous identity.

In many countries, social structural injustice imposes limitations on the enjoyment of our human rights, development and social welfare when and where they are most needed, and indigenous persons with disabilities are often among the most excluded.

We have seen great progress on the work of this Expert Mechanism regarding the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities, however, we know the struggle the EMRIP faces in finding accurate information about our peoples. It reflects the systematic historical hiding of indigenous persons with disabilities and the in-depth lacuna regarding our peoples.

It is now the time for the EMRIP to request States and the Human Rights Council to address that situation.

In that consideration, we recommend EMRIP to produce a specific report seeking information from States on indigenous persons with disabilities, their rights and development.

The inclusion of indigenous persons with disabilities in programming and policy development for the implementation of the UN Declaration and the Agenda 2030 represents a significant added value for the socioeconomic development everywhere.

We, indigenous persons with disabilities, have the capacity to play a role as partners and contributors to the growth of our societies. Furthermore, promoting our inclusion, a major transformation is expected at a cultural level by tackling practices of discrimination and stigma.

We, the Global Network, hope that the involvement of indigenous persons with disabilities and our organizations is strengthened in the work of the EMRIP.

Our Network offers our resources, knowledge, and expertise to build a constructive partnership with UN agencies, member states and Indigenous Peoples organizations in order to make the inclusion of indigenous persons with disabilities a reality.

EMRIP - ITEM 9 - FUTURE WORK OF THE EXPERT MECHANISM, INCLUDING FOCUS OF NEXT ANNUAL STUDY

In addition, we recommend EMRIP the following, to:

1. urge states to take serious commitment towards the inclusion of indigenous persons with disabilities in all policies, actions, programmes and data collection regarding indigenous peoples,
2. introduce measures and policies to ensure that indigenous persons with disabilities, including women, children, youth, older persons indigenous with disabilities, are protected from poverty and benefit equally from mainstream poverty alleviation and development programmes,
3. collect and disaggregate data on indigenous persons with disability, using the Washington Group Short Set of Questions when producing information and data regarding indigenous peoples,
4. continuously introduce information regarding indigenous persons with disabilities in their support to States, Indigenous Peoples Organisations, Human Rights Council, including in their country visits, as well as when inviting states to produce reports to the Voluntary Reviews to the High-level Political Forum.