

Statement on Item 3

Indigenous Peoples Youths and Children

**The permanent forum, 2nd Session
New York, May 13, 2003**

By: Hassan Idbalkassm

Istma, Itma: azul fllawn (+):

Mr. President:

I would like to take the floor on behalf of IPACC (Indigenous Peoples African Coordinating Committee) and Tamaynut Association (Amazigh People) to express some comments on Item 3: "Indigenous Peoples Youths and Children":

- 1) The situation of Indigenous children and youth in Africa is the worst in the whole World. As you know, all countries of Africa, above one hundred, are listed in the Developed Humanitarian report. The exclusion of Indigenous peoples' culture means the exclusion of children and youth of Africa from the participation under the policy of assimilation.
- 2) The majority of African constitutions are imposed without the participation of Indigenous Peoples and without any democratic process. They do not recognize the Indigenous Peoples' identities, languages, and civilizations. Minorities dominate the States with practices and policies of assimilation. These practices and policies destroy Indigenous identities, and the future of children and youth of Indigenous Peoples.

Despite of a little progress in some countries of Africa as in South Africa and Morocco, the policy of assimilation is practically dominant.

- 3) Finally, I would like to propose the following recommendations:

- To the United Nation System:

To further the process of democratization in the UN in order to promote the real participation of Indigenous Peoples, because the PF is not enough to

achieve a real participation, as well as to protect the rights of children and youth.

- To the governments:

The need of democratization and the adoption of democratic constitutions that recognize the identities, languages, civilizations and cultures of Indigenous Peoples in Africa, in order to protect the identity of children and youth and their future.

- To the United Nations Agencies:

The need of an important financing programme in order to create a real partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to eradicate the analphabetism, poverty and illness, and to promote a suitable development ensuring the rights of Children and Youth of Indigenous Peoples.

- To ECOSOC and Human Rights Commissions:

The need of adopting the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and a resolution to start drawing up a Draft Convention of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights protecting children and youth.

Hassan Idbalkassm

New York

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