

Thanks madam chair for the opportunity to present my statement.

Thanks to UN Voluntary fund for their unswerving support toward this noble cause which some people like us would have never dreamt of. Surely, may the Lord God grant you more and more blessings for your support towards the indigenous people.

My name is Nuria Gollo from Marsabit County in Kenya representing an indigenous minority tribe called the Wayyu who have never had the opportunity to attend such a forum.

The Wayyu are people found in Kenya, Ethiopia and the rest of the world. They were earlier referred to as thieves, beggars, poor, hunter gatherers, low quality and useless.

This really lowered their dignity and respect leading to some of them fleeing to the tribes of host for fear of being discriminated and stigmatized by concealing their identity pretending to be who they are not. As we all know, dignity is the foundation of all human rights.

In September 2018, after a lot of lobbying and letter writing, the Government of Kenya gave the Wayyu an identity as one of the tribes of Kenya by according them a code no.046 which lead to a celebration of the said tribe in Marsabit, Kenya on December 2018.

One of the tribes of host was not happy with the freedom attained by the indigenous minority tribe as they used to misuse them to boost their numbers during elections to achieve their political mileage. It is in this regard that a chief who attended the Wayyu function and who supported them in his area of jurisdiction was butchered and burnt alive. A case which has not been finalized to date to create fear and stop the Wayyu from achieving their dream in life as an independent minority tribe.

My plea to you Madam, chair, is as follows

1. Condemn the derogatory names used to refer to us.
2. Put Kenyan Government on toes in regards to recognition, respect and protection of indigenous peoples as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the rights of indigenous peoples
3. Enforce deliberate affirmative Action for indigenous minority people living in Kenya through education, capacity building and giving equal opportunities for all.
4. Create conducive environment for revival of indigenous minority tribes languages which have become extinct.
5. Reclaiming indigenous community lands, sacred sites grabbed by County Government in the name of Development.

Looking forward to your humble actions.

Thank you madam chair.