

Waiyu..Pele Leyoma !

We say thank you Madame Chair,

Expert members, state representatives, indigenous relatives , ladies and gentlemen.

I am Cressida Kuala, an indigenous women, representing an indigenous women's NGO, that have been working at a bottom-up level, in collaboration with international human rights NGO to fight for our rights in Porgera, in the Enga Province of Papua New Guinea, in the Pacific region.

I am here, attending DOCIP Training of Trainers and continued on to this 12 EMRIP session to voice issues of gross violations of human rights of women's rights and environmental degradation in Porgera that had affected lives of marginalized, indigenous Ipilli-Porgera people; especially women and young girls in the mining affected communities near the giant Porgera gold mine, which is mined by Barrick, a Canadian owned mining company that began amalgamative cooperations with PJV- Placer Dome in 2006. The gold mine actually began in 1989 and has been operating for 3 decades of overlooked grievances.

Our Organization is concerned with Social Welfare and Subsistence livelihood issues of the deprived population of indigenous women and young girls of the mine affected communities that had emerged after 30 years of mining. This provoked severely displaced indigenous women and young girls to scavenge for rocks/sands containing precious mineral gold at the Porgera mine dumping sites and they were raped/pack-raped, they were physically assaulted, men/boys were shot and killed by the mine securities/ hired police. Children were drowned in the murky river tailing when the mother ran for safety to escape mine securities/ mine hired police. These mine securities and hired police have also burned houses; raped/pack-raped women and girls when forced evicted indigenous people from 3 Tieni Clans, who lives in Wingima Village, just near the mine 3 times, that totally displaced the whole tieni tribes of Porgera.

These women and young girls were subjects of a reconciliation plan by Barrick-PJV Community Affairs in recognition of the UNGPs on Business and Human Rights and the UNDRIP. A Porgera Remedial Framework Association (PRFA) was introduced/ established as a remedy mechanism according to Professor John Ruggies report on the UNGP on the right to remedy, which failed because it was not effective, not fair and; the time frame was insufficient; the remedy mechanism was not transparent, not equitable, and was not acceptable.

Upon free, prior and informed consent, the indigenous women and young girls and the people Of Porgera realized that the 1989 Porgera Mine Agreement was a " BLUNDER". We claim reparation for our rights to access remedy upon article 8 para:2; 11:2 ; 18 and 28 of the UNDRIP; the right to life, the right to traditional lands upon article 10 of the UNDRIP.

I would like to make the following recommendations for the Papua New Guinea government;

1. The PNG National Government must establish a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI) and a strong monitoring group.
2. PNG National Government must create a proper and improved dialogue system to work in collaboration with the Porgera Human Rights and Environmental rights advocating Organization/civil society groups to build an improved remedy mechanism through a community driven operational grievance mechanism.
3. Papua New Guinea government must negotiate with the Canadian government to immediately appoint an independent ombudsperson with a "sharp teeth" and a "sharp mind" for extractive industries in Canada.
4. Human Rights and Environmental Rights advocating organizations need to work in collaboration with, the PNG government, the extractive industries, other international governments and NGOs to address, mitigate, and where possible, eradicate human rights and environmental rights issues.
5. Papua New Guinea National Government must issue permits for the UN groups to visit the Porgera gold mine in September 2019.
6. The PNG government must collaborate with the extractive industries/developers to fund activists and advocating organization representatives to involve in international participation on conventions/forums, trainings and awareness campaigns on Indigenous Peoples Rights; Human Rights ; Business- Human Rights and Environmental Rights.