

**Announcement on the discriminative term of Indigenous
Peoples "土著居民" in the Chinese Version of
the Declaration**

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Statement by
the Delegation of Taiwan Aborigines

Madam Chairperson,

We are Taiwan Aborigines. We use Chinese language in the formal affairs. In Taiwan, the term in Chinese version of the documents of UN "土著居民" means native, under-developed, and low-cultural People, it is a discriminative term to the Indigenous Peoples.

So, we hope the term "土著居民" can be replaced by "原住民" which means, that the people have lived in their land in the very beginning, and linguistically it can express the equality and uniqueness of Indigenous Peoples in relation to the other peoples.

The draft of the Declaration is completed by the efforts of all of us. But in view of the Chinese version of the Declaration, the discriminative term "土著居民" is still used in the text, and we are afraid, that this misnomer against the spirit of the Declaration will be adopted and circulated in the Chinese-writing areas.

Nowadays, people use "原住民" in newspapers, magazines and other mass media, however, our government still uses "山胞" (mountain peoples) to refer to Indigenous Peoples of Taiwan in every formal and political document including our constitution. We hope therefore through the assistance of the WGIP to express our opinions and affect our government to use "原住民" instead of "山胞" in any document, and furthermore, to replace the term "土著居民" by "原住民" in the Chinese version of the Declaration.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson