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**African Indigenous Women's Organisation – Central Africa Network
AIWO-CAN**

Presented by Ms. Bouba Hawe, Coordinator AIWO-CAN



Dear Mr. Chair and Participants,

It's a pleasure for me to address the issue of land, education and health.

These issues I believe is what almost all Indigenous Peoples lack. It is a central problem in Central Africa. The land issue has been so crucial that this year, Cameroon registered 5000 refugees from Nigeria. It is a nightmare to talk about hundreds who lost their lives in this conflict that opposed the pastoralists with their former communities who consider them as strangers on grassfields they occupied about a century and a half ago.

In Cameroon, in the two months 4 Mbororo men were arbitrarily arrested and are actually in prison. They are to face judgment by military court, because they protested over illegal occupation of their only remaining grazing land by rich ranchers.

The pygmies in their region suffer the same fate. The advent of the Cameroon-Chad pipeline has worsened their situation.

We can talk of health and education if only we have a place to live on.

Any development can only follow if the Indigenous Peoples have the right to the lands on which they live. I think the United Nations has to address this issue very strongly, or else all of their budget will serve refugee camps, instead of development issues.

Thank you, Mr. Chair