

**The 17th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**  
The UN Headquarters, New York, 16-27 April 2018

**Agenda Item-4:** Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**Statement by:**

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Thank you Madam Chair.

Since the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007, some major successes have been achieved. Constitutional and legislative frameworks that recognize indigenous peoples and their rights, including targeted policies and programmes, have been developed in some countries.

In regard to Bangladesh, in the 6th (2011-2015) Five Year Plan of Bangladesh, the Government mentioned that it will consider implementing the UNDRIP. However, any initiative or progress in regards to implementation of this plan over the period of the 6th Five Year Plan was not noticed. This assurance has been repeated in the 7th (2016-2020) Five Year Plan of Bangladesh. Now the question remains: will it be a repetition of the 6th Five Year Plan?

As CHT Accord of 1997 not being implemented, the human rights situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is growing more restless. The blueprint for demographic engineering to make indigenous Jumma peoples minority in their ancestral land is being rapidly implemented. The Government is using all forms of strategy from development activities to militarization, construction of border roads and link roads, declaration of reserve forests, indiscriminately leasing of lands to the outsiders, expansion of tourism industry etc.

In fact, for political and peaceful solution to the CHT problem there is no alternative but implementation of the CHT Accord. The characteristics of the tribal-inhabited CHT region must be preserved as per CHT Accord, and all powers and functions have to be brought into force as per laws under the CHT Regional Council and three Hill District Councils introduced under CHT special administrative system.

I, in light of the above stated situation, would like to appeal to your honour for pursuing the Government of Bangladesh for urgent action on the following issues:

1. To end the culture of impunity and to ensure access to justice of indigenous peoples including women and girls as per commitment in the second cycle of the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review held in 2013.
2. To take all necessary measures to implement the UNPFII recommendations of 2011, including the prevention of military personnel and units that have a track record of human rights violations from participating in the UN peacekeeping operations.

3. To encourage the Government of Bangladesh to declare a time-bound road map for the proper and full implementation of the CHT Accord, including immediate withdrawal of all temporary camps and de facto military rule 'Operation Uttoron' from the CHT region.