

MBOSCUDA

"Organization with special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations"

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On Behalf of the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA)

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**

Thank you Madam Chair.

Happy Anniversary to all Indigenous Peoples as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of UNDRIP. Permit me acknowledge the efforts made by the Cameroon government in the implementation of the key mandated areas;

The International Day of the Indigenous Peoples has been officially celebrated in Cameroon for the past years—mostly spearheaded by the Ministry of Social Affairs and with the support of other United Nations agencies such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the UN Regional Centre for Human Rights in Central Africa.

However, human rights as stipulated in article 1 of the UNDRIP still remains one of the key challenges that the Mbororo Pastoralists of Cameroon are facing. For example;

- Corporate owners in cohorts with some corrupt government officials are able to seize communal land, properties and cattle belonging to the pastoralists. Communal grazing land is taken by force away from Mbororo herders and transformed into ranches and estates for rich entrepreneurs. This is done with no prior and informed consent or any form of compensation whatsoever to the victims.
- Mbororo women in Cameroon face serious human rights violations as they have little or no influence in decision-making processes at local and national levels. Poverty stricken families are forced to sell Mbororo girls between the ages of thirteen and seventeen as sex –slaves to older rich men.
- In recent years in the East, Adamawa and Northern regions of Cameroon matters become more critical for indigenous peoples as terrorists groups have been targeting indigenous women, children and heads of households and hold them as hostages for ransom which they cannot afford. The Mbororo people are an easy target for these criminals because they have limited protection from the state in Cameroon. Dozens of deaths have resulted from these kidnappings.

Little progress has taken place in the Economic and social, health and environmental conditions of the Mbororo community.

MBOSCUDA, the organisation whose mission is to protect the interest and well-being of the MBORORO is being constantly harassed by the agents of corporate owners with collaboration of corrupt government officials making it difficult for the organization to operate.

In spite of the entire obstacle, in accordance with article: 14 of the declaration, MBOSCUDA prioritize education as its main focus. The organization in partnership with

the Ministry of Social Affairs and international NGOs like Plan Cameroon provides scholarships to children especially girls to access culturally appropriate school systems.

While we acknowledge the effort made by the Government, significant challenges remains, this include the lack of knowledge of the existence of the Declaration by some key state actors to meet up with its international obligations.

Mboscuda calls on the Cameroon government;

1. To create a national commission for the implementation of the UNDRIP on the rights of indigenous peoples in Cameroon, in pursuance to article 38, 39, and Article 41 of UNDRIP.
2. To encourage specialized UN agencies in Cameroon, Intergovernmental organizations, the Government of Cameroon and Indigenous peoples to collaborate in order to mobilize for the technical and financial resources necessary for the full realization of the implementation of the UN DRIP .
3. Finally, we strongly urge the government of Cameroon to put a stop to trans-border crisis whereby terrorist groups which come from Nigeria and Central African Republic and kidnap and murder Mbororo Community members.

Thank you for your attention.