

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF AFRICA CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

IPACC Recommendations to the 22nd Session of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations

IPACC would like to acknowledge the fine work of the UNWGIP during this past Decade. You have created a platform for Africa's most marginalized and vulnerable peoples to come and express their earnest request to survive, to be recognised, and to be part of the world family.

You have broadened the awareness of the concept of human rights and dignity in Africa. For this, we are deeply grateful.

As has been often stated, Africa is the cradle of humankind. We have the greatest human genetic diversity on the planet, and one third of the world's languages. Throughout the continent there are pockets of surviving indigenous cultures, some still managing to hold onto their heritages of hunting-gathering and nomadic pastoralism.

At the end of this decade, we would like to make the following suggestions to the expert working group and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights:

1. We encourage the OHCHR and the UNWGIP to increase the effectiveness of their engagement with the indigenous peoples of

Africa. This Decade has started a process which must still be nurtured

2. We recommend that the OHCHR and UNWGIP stimulate research on the constitutional and juridical basis of identifying indigenous peoples in Africa, notably studying the legacy of French, British, German, Portuguese and Spanish colonisation on the contemporary situation and human rights of nomadic and transhumant peoples
3. We encourage the OHCHR and UNWGIP to explore ways of reviewing the progression of human and civil rights for indigenous peoples in Africa, notably in co-operation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, national Human Rights Commissions and NGOs, including our regional representative structure, IPACC
4. We specifically ask the UNWGIP to appoint one of its respected expert members to provide the UN with a summary of the indigenous peoples human and civil rights on the African continent during the Decade
5. We encourage the OHCHR and UNWGIP to look for forums on the African continents where vulnerable indigenous communities have an opportunity to concerns about their human and civil rights