

**24* Session United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations
Geneva, Switzerland
31 July-4 August 2006**

Agenda Item; 4 (a) *General Debate (Socio-Economic Development)*

Statement by Sagarmoy Chakma
On behalf of
JUNO PAWR & World Chakma Organization,
Email: sagarc312@hotmail.com; sagarc312@gmail.com

Thanks You, Mr. Chairman, distinguished government delegates, Indigenous brothers and sister and others participants.

We, the Indigenous people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts have had to go through a long period, two decades, of conflicts, Militarization and Land grabbing, the Peace Accord between Bangladesh Government and PCJSS was signed 2nd December 1997. This peace accord recognizes many of our rights. But unfortunately it is not come to true that after the elapse of eight and half years two successive governments the peace accord could not bring and implement any exemplary development of the CHTs situation.

After the Peace Accord, Many development activities initiated by different government institutes, local, national and intentional NGOs (UNDP, UNICEP; DANIDA Etc.). This Accord has laid down a basis upon which to bring forth people-oriented development in the CHT. But I regret to report you that the Accord failed to bring about the expected changes in the situation of the indigenous peoples, as most of the fundamental provisions of the Accord remain unimplemented till today. The Government has been manipulating the whole implementation process of the Accord in a way in which more Bengali people are migrating into the CHT and development programmes are becoming increasingly Bengali settler-oriented. Examples of how the Government is manipulating or violating the Peace Accord are given bellow:

1. In violation of the Accord, a non-indigenous person ruling party MP Mr. Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan was appointed as the Chairman of the CHT Development Board (CHTDB), the institution responsible for major development programs in the region.
2. As per the Accord, an indigenous person is to be appointed as Minister to the Ministry on CHT Affairs. But the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has kept the forth-folio under her *charge*, and appointed an indigenous MP Mr. Moni Swapan Dewan *to the* post as Deputy Minister, who has practically no decision-making power. As a result, the Ministn/ works against the interest of the indigenous people. Protesting to it, the Deputy Minister Mr. Moni Swapan Dewan wanted to resign.