

MAINYOITO PASTORALIST INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION  
(MPIDO), AND OTHER MAASAI INDIGENOUS ORGANISATIONS IN EAST AFRICA

STATEMENT TO THE 7<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM  
ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES UNDER AGENDA ITEM No. 5 ON THE SITUATION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Maasai Indigenous Peoples in Kenya and Tanzania suffer a cocktail of abuses to their social, cultural, economic and ecological rights which is further compounded by systemic and institutionalized marginalization and social exclusion from basic social services.

Maasai Indigenous Peoples also castigate the government of Kenya for its hostility towards the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other instruments that seek to safeguard the Rights and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples

The recent violence that erupted in Kenya pursuant to the disputed election results was multi-dimensional, it was not only a demand for Justice following blatant theft of votes and a travesty of democracy through a civilian coup perpetuated by the incumbent and his clique of rich handlers, but rather this was a conflict of inequality and poverty. Kenya represents one of the most unequal countries in the world, where the divide between the rich and the poor is enormous. These inequalities have their roots in historical injustices that have dispossessed peoples of their ancestral lands and resources, institutionalized marginalization and exploitation which have exacerbated poverty and despondency

The conflict has brought about multi dimensional effects on indigenous peoples especially threats of domination by immigrants spilling over from over populated areas, and takeover of Indigenous Peoples lands, territories and resources. This is as a result of the Internally Displaced peoples being settled on Maasai territories especially in

Kajiado district. This is a recipe for future conflicts based on competition for the meager resources and social, economic and political domination as well as introduction of alien modes of livelihoods and production including conflicting cultures which shall threaten the fragile ecosystem. The resettlement of IDPs does not have consent from the Maasai Indigenous Peoples and this will further exacerbate poverty and deprivation.

The reality was captured by His Excellency, Dr. Kofi Annan led mediation team that midwived the grand Coalition government, that has the responsibility to facilitate the process of a new constitution and the formation of a Truth, Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission. The Land Question and Historical Injustices will be the core focus of this commission. Kenyans shall remain indebted to Dr. Annan for his patience and able leadership in this process.

Impacts of climate change have had far reaching ramifications on Indigenous Peoples with frequent droughts, water scarcity and diminishing livestock resources. The aforesaid threats spell doom for the peoples who are confronted by historical and contemporary injustices to land, natural resources, basic services, brutality and foreign military incursions among many others. We acknowledge the support that ILO has given Indigenous Peoples in the past to engage in processes of emancipation and promotion and protection of Human Rights

In this regard we make the following recommendations;

- We warn the UN Habitat that the so-called resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons on Maasai territories is a blatant violation of Indigenous Peoples rights and fundamental entitlements. The resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons on our ancestral lands is a gimmick to dispossess us further even as we seek for redress of the fraudulent 1904 and 1911 treaties.
- More collaboration between Indigenous Peoples and support from ILO, UNPFII, UN High Commission for Human Rights and UNDP to ensure that we

the Maasai do not continue to suffer the consequences of processes that we are not the cause of

- UNPFII and ILO as well as UNDP to support a meeting in Nairobi Kenya bringing together all UN agencies and Indigenous Peoples to address these emerging threats
- UNPFII, ILO, UNDP and other like minded institutions, Indigenous Peoples Networks to assist Indigenous Peoples in Kenya to advocate for the ratification of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Sustained Collaboration among Indigenous Peoples to engage in a process that will lead to the enactment of a new constitution in Kenya that shall respect and guarantee the rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Support to Maasai Indigenous Peoples so that they engage proactively with the current reform processes in Kenya to ensure that issues of concern are captured and articulated in the resultant recommendations to the duty bearers especially by the yet to be created Truth, Justice, Peace and reconciliation commission.