

**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous
Peoples (EMRIP)**

Fourth Session

11-15 of July 2011

Geneva, Switzerland

A STATEMENT Delivered by BOUBA AEI SATU

AFRICAN INDIGENOUS WOMEN ORGANISATION –AIWO-CAN

Agenda 5. UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

· THANK YOU MR CHAIR MAN for giving me the floor
- MEMBERS OF THE EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES,
-REPRESENTATIVES OF DIFFERENT STATES
- DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTES
GOOD MORNING TO YOU ALL

I would first of all congratulate you for your election as the new chairman
The AFRICAN INDIGENOUS WOMEN ORGANISATION AIWO-CAN is representing two indigenous women groups that is: The Mbororo Pastoralists and the Forest Women in Central Africa. For the past years this Organisation has been doing underground work to promote and protect the Socio-Economic and Political Rights of these Indigenous women. Our Organisation works in collaboration with some representatives of Indigenous communities such as the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association –MBOSCUDA-The BAKA etc.

I would say here that the adoption of the United Nations declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007 did not have a great impact and little is being done so far as its implementation is concerned by states.

In Cameroon, the Government started celebrating the world Indigenous Day in 2008 and identified certain groups of Indigenous peoples and these two groups

are included and this was viewed as a positive step. The government also started a study on the elaboration of a project law aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous communities which has not yet been adopted. The Indigenous Communities in Cameroon are hoping to see this happen in the near future.

Even though the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states in its **Article 7, 25 and 5 with regards to the Rights to land and protection of Indigenous Traditional Institutions**, Some indigenous communities like the mbororos continue to suffer from intimidations, such as illegal arrest and detention, seizure of their lands and property, forceful marriages of young Mbororo girls by powerful individuals with the complicity of some corrupt people.

With regard to these violations a communication was being sent to the state of Cameroon from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva in 2008 and until date no response was given.

Further more these powerful individuals because of their selfish interest continue with the systematic destabilisation and destruction of the *mbororo* traditional institutions e.g. Sabga leadership case. They also claim that mbororo people are not indigenous people and that they should be remove from the Government List of Indigenous Communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The African Indigenous Women Organisation has two proposals to make ;That

- States should adhere to and respect to the principles as expressed in the United Nations Declaration of the Right of Indigenous Peoples.
- States should accept the request of Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to visit countries to have first-hand information on cases of Human Right violations in Indigenous Communities.

Thanks for your Humble Attention