

Ogaden People's Rights Organisation (OPRO)
United Nations Indigenous Forum 16th Session
Agenda Item #9- SDG
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UN Headquarters, New York

Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates of Indigenous Peoples, Member states, UN agencies and NGO's

I am speaking on behalf of Ogaden People's Rights organisation. OPRO fully agrees with the issues raised in Permanent forum update regarding Indigenous people and the 2030 agenda. The principles of human rights, equality, non-discrimination, sustainability and participation by right-holders, which are essential to indigenous peoples is being consistently violated by many states. In the field of education Indigenous people are either neglected in states plans for example in the case of pastoral communities or curriculums that are not attuned to their way of is offered, thus disempowering the Youth to inherit skills that can sustain survival in their environment.

One of the most vulnerable groups of the indigenous peoples are the pastoralist communities that live often in arid or semi-arid lands of East, North and West Africa and vast expanses of Northern Asia. They are under threat from both natural causes and new drives for energy, agri-business and from extractive industries. They are the neediest of humanity and all SDG are relevant to their survival and wellbeing.

In many parts of the world where these communities live, there are protracted conflicts and states often use collective punitive measures that often make those goals un achievable unless the international community concerted effort to resolve those anomalies. Let alone end poverty, structural discrimination and marginalisation by provision of basic services and ensuring that they are not left behind, states often impose embargo and other punitive measures disempower those communities even to maintain their meagre living standards.

Madame Chair, we recommend that all stakeholder the mechanism of implementing SDG be further streamlined in the case of indigenous peoples. We further recommend that all concerned parties develop clear measurable objectives and implementation plans regarding pastoralist communities.

Finally, in order to ensure the principle of free, prior and informed consent and the right to self-determined development, as well as continued focus of legal recognition of indigenous peoples and their individual and collective rights in combination with human rights in regard to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 10 on social, economic and political inclusion, we request that a rotating community of indigenous peoples representatives be allowed to be part of the SDG process at every level.

Thank you