



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

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STATEMENT BY

**MS. NGUSEKELA KAREN NYERERE, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE: AGENDA ITEM 66 (a,b): RIGHTS OF
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
NEW YORK, 20 OCTOBER 2014**

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Chairperson,

My delegation has taken note of the progress made by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as stated in Secretary General's Report on the Achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. While there has been some progress in achieving the goals of the Second Decade, a substantial gap remains between the formal recognition of indigenous peoples and the implementation of policies on the ground.

It is no accident that in 2013 the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum when assessing progress towards the attainment of MDGs and food insecurity in relation to indigenous people, failed to get specific references to indigenous people in Africa. This explains the unique circumstances of societies and people in Africa. In our view this situation would remain for the reason that the circumstances of indigenous peoples varies from region to region and from country to country. If the goals and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People are to be achieved, its implementation needs to take into account national and regional particularities and various historical and cultural backgrounds;

Chairperson,

The United Republic of Tanzania has always expressed reservations on the existence of indigenous communities in her jurisdiction. In our case, indigenous concept found favour during the colonial era. Colonialism subjected pastoralist societies in Africa to perpetual marginalization and discrimination leading them to remain backward.

Cognizant of this situation, immediately after independence, Tanzania adopted measures that were meant to engender the wellbeing of all people regardless of their ethnicity or tribal affiliation to redress inherent imbalances. The Government invested heavily on the provision of social amenities and economic empowerment as well as political participation for all communities including the minority groups. Most societies have evolved overtime, taking up new ventures in addition to the customary ones. Good examples of these are the Masaai people whose vibrant culture is a part of our national identity.

Chairperson,

Efforts are still underway to ensure no community in Tanzania is left behind in the development endeavour as stipulated in the MDGs and translated in National Development plans and programmes. Nevertheless few of our minority groups continue to maintain their traditional ways of life and their lives depend on access to lands and accompanying natural resources.

Schemes such as Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) is designed to support the poorest and the most vulnerable communities to assure the wellbeing of minorities through a series of interventions aimed at (i) protection of households from seasonal and unexpected shocks affecting their income and assets, (ii) provision of tools for mitigating poverty and vulnerability, and (iii) empowerment to enable them to improve their living standards and get out of food poverty.

Chairperson,

In Tanzania a Certificate of Village Land is issued to members of the community who form themselves into a village for the purposes of legal recognition. According to the laws, a village is the only legally-recognized autonomous entity on land matters whereby a land certificate is offered for the whole community. However, in some instances hunter-gatherers may not constitute the number required by law to form a village as they are numerical minority. Nonetheless, in 2011 the Hadzabe were granted a Collective Community Land Certificate without necessarily meeting the required qualifications. Recently, the pastoralist and hunter-gatherer organizations actively participate in the constitution-making process to enable their interests be included in the new constitution.

Chairperson,

The United Republic of Tanzania reaffirms its commitment to support the development initiatives that address the needs of minority groups being cognizant of the fact that sustainable development can be achieved with effective participation of the minority communities in matters that affect them directly or indirectly.

I THANK YOU