

23 may 2016 – UNEA- COW

Statement by the Indigenous Peoples on agenda

4. Draft resolutions

Recommendations of Indigenous Peoples to the draft resolution on the transformation of pastoralism towards sustainable development

Proposed by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

The Indigenous Peoples Major Group for UNEA welcomes the two Resolutions -- L 24 proposed by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and L 2 on “Combating Desertification, Land Degradation and Sustainable Management of Rangelands” proposed by the government of Sudan and Namibia. Both resolutions are addressing the need to promote and protect sustainable pastoralism as critical for Agenda 2030. We believe both Resolutions have key elements that can be combined into one resolution in line with the achieving the SDG call of “leaving no one behind” and the “Africa We Want” in securing, protecting and improving the lives, livelihoods and Rights of Pastoralist Communities.

We welcome the inclusion of “Securing, Protecting and Improving the Lives, Livelihoods and Rights of Pastoralist Communities, in the Africa We Want. We fully support the recommendations to the United Nations General Assembly to designate an International Year on Pastoralists and Rangelands so as to raise global awareness and support the transformation of pastoralism and sustainable development and to designate the 25th January International Day of Pastoralism on an annual basis.

Under the Preambular section of the Ethiopia Resolution, we wish to replace the para 6 and 7 with the following para from the draft Resolution of Sudan and Namibia :

“Recognizing that healthy grasslands and rangelands ecosystems are vital for supporting sustainable pastoralism, wildlife, tourism, carbon sequestration, maintaining soil stability regarding the flow of water and other ecosystem, goods and services, as well as supporting human livelihoods and can play a significant role in the achievement of 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

“Recognizing that the benefits of taking action against land degradation by implementing sustainable land management activities are much higher than costs associated and that actions land degradation should be integrated with poverty reduction measures in order to achieve the sustainable development goals

We also recommend the deletion of the para 8 under the preambular section:

“ Recognizing that in some pastoral societies, there are harmful traditional practices, gender-related abuses.. “ as this is unclear and misleading.

Further, we wish to add this para under the Preambular part:

Recognizing that pastoralism is a historical practice that is very much linked to the distinct cultures, identities, traditional knowledge and way of life of millions of indigenous peoples across the globe which have contributed in enhancing biodiversity, food security and sustainable management of rangelands.

Under the Operative Section of the Resolution, we also propose to revise para 1 to to: *Urges* member states to recognize the rights of pastoralists to “economic resources, as well as access to basic social services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate technology, financial services and micro-finance in ending poverty and achieve sustainable development for pastoralist in line with the call of “ leaving no one behind”. This recommendation is based on the agreed SDG target under Goal 1 (ending poverty target 1.4)

Under para 8, we strongly recommend the inclusion of institutions and organisations of Pastoralist in the partnership on “ increase support to States, in order to understand the trends and status of pastoralism, livestock development...”

Finally, we wish to extend our full cooperation with state parties in this important Resolution to ensure that the rights, welfare and contributions of pastoralist are promoted and protected alongside environment sustainability and economic growth as a critical contribution to sustainable development with “leaving no one behind”.

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