

Indigenous Peoples' statement for the major group intervention rural development session, Monday 24th February 2009

IPM Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
February 23-27, 2009, United Nations, New York, New York

Madam Chair, Rural development is an area where most of our governments have ignored for years. This problem has caused mass rural urban migration. The workload of women has increased from the usual, as they are left to farm and look after the family- children and the old. Poverty has increased leaving vulnerable more desperate than ever before. If we have to stop this migration and reduce poverty child mortality and archive other millennium development goals, rural development needs have to be mainstreamed in national development frameworks. It is important to ensure that action is taken now and that the policy priorities have to be action oriented, participatory, inclusive and have to be those that will address the many social, cultural and economic constraints faced by Indigenous Peoples and other local communities globally.

- It is important as priority to take measures, prioritize and introduce participatory mechanisms that can integrate into infrastructure and market development which can promote technological choices by Pastoralists and farmers to facilitate innovations.
- Measures should be taken to implement equitable and inclusive basic services like water resources and address conflicting users of those resources, especially between pastoralist and farmers.
- Traditional livelihoods, management of natural resources by Indigenous Peoples should be supported.
- Provide support for the development and installation of simple local technologies such as those promoting shallow wells, subsurface dams, water harvesting techniques, for the access of water for domestic consumption and hygiene, and for economic activities such as livestock rising, brick making or small-scale agricultural activities.
- If we have to reduce men and youth migrating to cities, policies have to be put in place that will decentralise and locally manage renewable energy systems in the rural areas

Thank you Madam Chair.

Presented for Indigenous Peoples major group by Lucy Mullenkei- Indigenous Information Network