

## **Indigenous Peoples' statement for the major group intervention session, Agriculture Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

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Thank you Madam Chair.

Indigenous Peoples support the statements made by NGO, Youth and business major groups. The presentations this morning by the two panelist were very interesting as they brought out some of the important ideas of sustainable livelihoods through sustainable and eco agriculture. This is important for indigenous Peoples, local communities and many hunter gathers around the world who are facing challenges in their lives due to not only effect of climate change but due to loose of their lands, land tenure systems, poor governance that has allowed the loose of the land of the people to monocrop production, expansion of extractive industries large scale farming causing displacement of many poor communities and loose of biodiversity that these communities depend on. As Governments plan these large scale farming, measures should be taken to address and prevent the negative impacts. As Agricultural remains the main pillar of poverty reduction, diversification can function as a strategy for indigenous communities to manage risks associated with climate change

Madam Chair, alternative livelihoods are critical to many indigenous and local communities all over the world. Nomadic Pastoralist and hunter gathers in sub-Saharan Africa have now to look for alternatives to their normal livestock and gathering way of life to small scale farming as an alternative to survive. As we discuss the policy priorities, there is need

- To create awareness education and information for communities, on green revolution and new technologies and other new alternatives, agricultural extension work should be enhanced and reaches out to all with full recognition and integration of community traditional and indigenous knowledge.
- Indigenous Peoples and local communities recognize the role played by women in food production, there is need then to allow women access to and jurisdictions over land and natural resources and guarantee their representation in decision making.
- Land tenure systems in many of our countries are still a problem and there is need to review land laws and agrarian policies towards secure of tenure and land rights for indigenous and local communities.
- Adopt a comprehensive land use involving carefully planned crop rotation that minimizes erosion and uses less water-dependent crops in drier months/years, conservation agriculture, rainwater harvesting, water recycling and appropriate water restrictions.
- It is important to include community contribution in policy formulation, and implementation to ensure that their needs are included and that the process is open and Participatory.

Thank you Madam Chair.

*Presented for Indigenous Peoples major group by Lucy Mulenkei- Indigenous Information Network*