

Intervention Indigenous peoples - Africa contnue-5/9/08 afternoon By Lucy Mulenkei- Indigenous Caucus

Mr. Chairman.-

Thank the panelists this afternoon and also in the morning whose presentations we followed keenly. We support the statements made by the Youth and children and NGOs major groups and in my interventions, I will skip some of the similar issues brought by them in their inventions.

The Panelist have highlighted key issues especially those by Dr. Julia Howard who brought to the attention of this commission on the need for government focus on infrastructure. This is important to many indigenous peoples as they live in more remote areas in the rural areas. These are areas where most Governments have ignored the infrastructure. For example in the horn of Africa and the Sahel, nomadic peoples live in remote areas where the infrasture has not been improved for centuries. This has causing insecurities and poverty. Even though they have incoming generating activities and livestock trade, they cannot advance as the infrasture cannot allow and not friendly for frequent travel. This is the same with farmers who live in areas where development is history their produce do not reach anywhere on time especially in wet seasons as the roads are pathetic. We are talking of hunger and shortage of food and then others cannot get the food out for sale because of the poor infrastructure. Africa can feed itself. It can feed itself if Governments recognize the potential of remote rural communities. Alternative livelihoods like the youth major group is important especially for the drought and semi arid lands so that the crucial movements of youth and other productive members of the communities can be occupied and feel productive and stop movement of rural urban migration. If Governments have to meet the MDG goals they must reach out, help with information and awareness creation and build capacity for these communities to share their traditional technology for the success of sustainable development

Thank you Mr. chairman