**Contribution to Draft General Recommendation No 37 on Racial Discrimination in the Enjoyment of the Right to Health**

Indigenous Peoples have preserved varieties of flora and fauna in their forests and land around which they produce traditional or indigenous medicines.Indigenous peoples have many varieties of traditional medicinal knowledge and plants hereditary medicine. The Apokayan tribe in East Kalimantan, North Kalimantan and West Kalimantan Indonesia have a traditional understanding of about 214 varieties of medicinal plants. Including the Dani tribe in Wamena Papua Indonesia have 194 varieties of medicinal plants .

Then, "rorano" is an indigenous ingredient known from the Halmahera and North Maluku regions of Indonesia . When taking the rorano ingredients, indigenous people must have a "siloloa" ceremony or permission from the owner or creator, to take leaves, stems, up to the bark and roots of trees. Rorano is very important, because rorano has historical value in curing all symptoms of disease in North Maluku region, Indonesia. Almost all rorano recipes use the spices ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves. These four ingredients are high in crude essential oils which function as anti-inflammatories and anti-damage to blood vessels (atherochlorosis). Rorano has existed and been preserved for a long time and has been tested on humans for generations.

Ideally, there should be a regional regulation that specifically regulates the protection scheme for these indigenous medicines because of the traditional recipes and the benefits of maintaining health that are felt by indigenous people for many generations particularly managed by indigenous women.

Due to racial and ethnic discrimination, many indigenous people cannot practice and preserve these medicines which are considered to be left behind, unusual, not modern for medical treatment in this era.

**Racial discrimination in the right to control one’s health and body**

Article 5 (e)(iv) (**the draft)** requires States to respect, protect and fulfil the freedom from racial discrimination in the right to control one’s health and body, including to the right to health of indigenous peoples is fundamentally hereditary.

Reminding on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Article 24

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

2. Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.

The indigenous peoples' medicine began to disappear and abandoned because of nothing policy. Many forests and peatland areas are burnt and rivers are drying up and polluted because of the waste and pollutant from extractive industries which the indigenous forest and rivers are actually sources and places where flora and fauna grow and are sources of medicines for indigenous peoples.

This recommendation is in line with UNDRIP states that indigenous peoples have either right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals.Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

Contributor/ Submitted by:

**Nukila Evanty**

**Chairperson of Inisiasi Masyarakat Adat (IMA) /**

**Indigenous Peoples' Initiatives**

Email: info.imaindonesia@gmail.com

Website : https://www.indigenousinitiatives.id/