17th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

United Nations – EMRIP 8-12 July 2024

ITEM 8. Discussion panel on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in post-conflict situations and peace negotiations, agreements and conventions.

Congress Mondial Amazigh (CMA) Intervention

Honourable Chair and Distinguished Delegates

Good Afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen - Azul Fellawen/ent Sitma d Aythma

As the IPs of North Africa, we appreciate that Article 7 (2) of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms our right to live in freedom, peace, and security as distinct communities. This highlights the importance of peace agreements for conflict resolution. IPs have actively negotiated peace agreements to end hostilities. However, the Amazigh people in North Africa have historically faced marginalisation, discrimination, and violations of their fundamental rights, especially conflict and instability. As we gather at this significant event, it is imperative to emphasise the need for their inclusion and recognition in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding processes.

The Libyan civil war and the conflict in Azawad have left deep scars, with our people bearing a disproportionate share of the burden. Despite our significant contributions to the cultural and social landscapes, we have often been excluded from political processes. Our voices are seldom heard in peace negotiations and governance structures in post-conflict scenarios. One of the critical issues faced by our people is the infringement upon our ancestral lands and natural resources. The lack of legal recognition and protection of our land rights has led to dispossession and exploitation. Post-conflict reconstruction often overlooks their unique needs and contributions, eroding our cultural assets and heritage. Access to proper education, healthcare, and economic opportunities remains limited, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality. Therefore, our recommendations for peace negotiations and agreements are as follows:

1. **Inclusive Representation**: Peace negotiations and agreements must ensure the meaningful participation of the Amazigh representatives and organisations.
2. **Legal Recognition of Rights**: It is crucial to enshrine the rights of the Amazigh in national and international legal frameworks. This includes recognising their land and resource access rights and right to self-determination.
3. **Capacity Building and Empowerment**: Strengthening our communities' capacities to engage in political, economic, and social spheres is essential. This includes providing education and training and creating opportunities for economic self-sufficiency.
4. **International Support and Solidarity**: The international community plays a role in supporting Indigenous Peoples' rights. This includes providing financial and technical assistance, advocating for their inclusion in peace processes, and holding states accountable for their obligations under international human rights law.

The inclusion and participation of IPs in post-conflict situations and peace negotiations is not only a matter of justice but also a prerequisite for achieving lasting peace and stability. Let us commit to building a future where IPs' rights and dignity are respected, and their voices are heard in the corridors of power. Together, we can create a world that values diversity, promotes equality, and fosters peace.

Thank you, Tanemmirt. Tidir Tamourt Nagh