

Dear Madam Chairperson, Dear Independent Expert I belong to Anywa community a national minority ethnic group in Gambella region southwest Ethiopia. Seven years ago from September 13-15 2003, just the same day as this forum, the Ethiopian government has committed genocide on the Anywa people. Today the Anywa community individually or in groups are commemorating what has been come to be known as the December 13 genocide of the Anywa people.

Dear Madam Chairperson I kindly request you to allow me just 10 seconds from my allocated time to commemorate in silence the 424 Anywa people who were massacred on December 13th-15th 2003 by the Ethiopian government. And I kindly request those who are willing to join me in silence for the next 10 seconds.

Thank you very much for joining me. The issue of participation in economic and development policy making is indeed an important aspect for the realisation of the human rights of minorities. Our community is deprived of these important rights because we only have one representative in the parliament.

Moreover due to the one party domination of the parliament the actual policy actually takes places in the central committee of the ruling party in which minorities are not represented at all. One of the former minorities PM said that we minorities are only wanted in parliament to make it more colourful brown, black, red because we Ethiopians love colours. One of the contemporary examples is ongoing eviction of minorities from their traditional lands, in which minorities PM are unable to stop such a destructive programme in their own constituencies. The Ethiopian government has already leased more than one million hectares of land to foreign investors in Gambella alone. On top of that the government has recently revealed that another plan to displace 1.5 million people in minorities region, no people will be displaced or land will be leased to foreign investors in the region where the PM or deputy prime minister and others come from. This shows the vulnerability of minorities to decision of dominant groups on issues critical to their lives as individuals and well being as a community. Madam Chairperson I would recommend that the Ethiopian government be advised to respect indigenous people's right to land, the independent expert on minorities issues and the special rapporteur on IP investigate the ongoing evictions in Ethiopia particularly in Gambella, Afar, Amhara, Somali and Oromia region. And finally foreign companies that are involved in land grab, be advised to be sensitive of minorities and IP rights, thank you Madam Chairperson.