

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 13th session, 2014

Side-Event: Pastoralism and the Post 2015 agenda

Organized by UNEP, IUCN/ WISP, WAMIP, IFAD, ILC, FAO, Tebtebba, MPIDO

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Summary report of the side event proceedings

This dialogue was moderated by **Dr. Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Special Advisor to the Executive Director on Post 2015/SDGs, UNEP**. She described pastoralism as an extensive livestock production option in the rangelands and one of the most sustainable food systems on the planet. Pastoralists are stewards of more than a quarter of the world's land, conserving rangeland biodiversity and protecting ecosystem services. Pastoralism is practiced by between 200 and 500 million people worldwide, many of whom are facing similar challenges in both developed and developing countries. Progress in pastoral areas generally falls behind that of other communities, creating poverty and vulnerability that undermine the sustainability of the ecosystem. Enabling conditions are needed for pastoralism to fulfil its potential in the Post 2015 Agenda. One of the key challenges around dryland development and pastoralism has been the deeply entrenched prejudice that pastoralism is primitive, unviable and outmoded. Pastoral livelihoods, especially in Africa, are portrayed as unproductive and environmentally destructive, leading regional and local authorities to encourage pastoralists to settle. More than two decades of research has provided evidence for the opposite perspective; pastoralism as economically rational and viable, and as a vital tool for large-scale conservation and ecosystem management.

Throughout the ensuing discussion there was a consensus among the panellists on the timely momentum to raise awareness around pastoralism and its potential. **Mr. Joseph Ole Simel, Executive Director of MPIDO, Kenya** underscored that pastoralism has been practiced for millennia until today in most regions of the world. However, pastoralists until today are marginalized across the world including in their own countries, as well as at regional and global levels. According to him, the two main challenges are land grabbing due to competing interests and the absence of any recognition of pastoralist systems in national, regional or global policy frameworks. He strongly underlined the need to have pastoralists recognised and mentioned in the SDGs as well as the Post 2015 agenda in order to be able to address the realities and challenges faced by pastoralists around the world. **Mr. Guillermo Elizalde, Minister of Land, Environment and Natural Resources, Mendoza, Argentina**, shared an example on how Argentina had successfully re-allocated 15000 hectares of land to indigenous peoples to be able to practice pastoralism. Despite the challenges faced through more severe climate change effects such as an increase in droughts which also reduces the productivity of graze lands. The government has supported these small family enterprises also with providing improved market chains and pastoralists' products and therefore providing for more economic independence providing the pastoralists with sustainable development options. Moreover the Minister believes it is necessary to associate and integrate pastoralism to the post-2015 Agenda. In response to the moderator's question regarding the drivers that today's industry and the demands from a consumers' perspective could provide, **Ms. Antonella Cordone, Coordinator for Indigenous and Tribal Issues, IFAD**, stated that the diversity of people corresponds to diversity of food especially with the growth in population. Food production is not just a commodity, but is multifunctional and entails social, cultural, environmental, economic, spiritual

and nutritional values. If traditional food systems are threatened then we risk degrading the environment and losing the best foundation for an appropriate and healthy nutrition. “If we do not address these issues with a holistic approach, we will fail the future”. We risk losing the most important thing for humanity: nutrition. Pastoralism is a response to the solution. The post-2015 Agenda needs to put at its heart centre the diversity of humanity; if indigenous peoples are not considered in the dialogue the specificity of pastoralism will not be considered either. She asserted that we have to make a shift in the paradigm of food production and consumption, and look for alliances to carry the issue to the necessary level.

Mr. Lalji Desai, President of WAMIP, stated that the world has no reliable figures available on the numbers of pastoralists around the world. He also announced that he considers the biggest challenge the lack of recognition of pastoralists’ economic livelihoods. He reminded that pastoralism is the second oldest livelihood provision after hunting and gathering for which mobility of the herds is essential to provide for food and water without degradation of the ecosystems. Lalji has noted that resources are not shared within the communities anymore which lead to constant competitive reactions among communities and pastoralists’ groups. Community land which has been shared equally among the entire community members and families is often the first land that is lost to land grabs even by official institutions. There are hardly any trans boundary mobility options available to pastoralists across national borders to gain access to pastures and water sources, a UN commission for pastoralists, protection of migratory routes where trans boundary mobility is necessary as well as more recognition and participation at national levels.

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, recognized that MDGs had not sufficiently addressed marginalized groups because poverty had been considered from a narrow perspective. Pastoralism is part of the solution of poverty and she emphasised the requirement of the SGDs to leave no one behind. She stated that for addressing pastoralism, the first entrance is the OWG and the second is to get Presidents and leaders support through their speeches in the relevant forums. These issues need to be housed in institutions – the OWG focus area 17 on capable institutions includes vulnerable groups and would be very relevant. Pastoralism could furthermore be incorporated at places in the working paper on SGDs, eg: under hunger and nutrition, decent jobs, water and sanitation. She recalled the statement of the UN Secretary General who stated that beyond the post-2015 Agenda there was a need to transform every aspect on food production and food consumption, especially in the sharing of resources. Sustainable consumption and production entails a change in the value system – pastoralists’ knowledge needs to be shared with those who think there are no solutions.

In the following discussion with the audience questions were raised on available disaggregated data and whether this was available in countries such as Argentina, and that there was a clear need to address the indigenous issues under a HRBA which was not the case in the SDGs and the OWG discussions until today. It was also urged to recognise that Indigenous Peoples are the part of the solutions. To conclude the discussion, the moderator announced that work was underway to develop suitable ideas on targets and indicators about pastoralism for SDGs, and invited panellists and participants to contribute to this effort.



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