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Excellency,

You will recall that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, at its 67th session held from 2 August to 19 August 2005, considered the eighth to sixteenth periodic reports of the United Republic of Tanzania and adopted Concluding Observations in relation thereto (CERD/C/TZA/CO/16).

Pursuant to Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and Article 65 of the Committee's rules of procedure, as amended, the Committee requested in paragraph 26 of its concluding observations that your Government provide information on the way it has followed up on the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13, 17 and 18 within one year. Moreover, the Committee recommended in paragraph 27 of its concluding observations that your Government submit its seventeenth and eighteenth periodic reports no later than 26 November 2007. The Committee notes with regret that, to date, it has not received any information in respect of the above.

The expropriation of the ancestral territories of certain ethnic groups, and their forced displacement and resettlement remains an issue of concern for the Committee. Indeed, it has recently been brought to the attention of the Committee that the pastoralist Maasai community of Soitsambu Village in Ngorongoro District of Arusha Region has forcibly been evicted from Sukenya Farm and therefore unilaterally dispossessed of the land it has traditionally occupied. Moreover, the Soitsambu villagers are allegedly being denied access to vital sources of water on the Sukenya Farm therefore threatening their survival and that of their livestock.

**His Excellency Mr. Marten Y.C. Lumbanga
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In this regard, the Committee recalls paragraph 14 of its Concluding Observations, in which it recommended that the State party "provide detailed information on the expropriation of the land of certain ethnic groups, on compensation granted and on their situation following their displacement." Furthermore, the Committee recommended in paragraph 16 of its Concluding Observations that the State Party "provide detailed information on the situation of nomadic and semi-nomadic ethnic groups and on any special measures taken with a view to ensuring the enjoyment of their rights under the Convention, notably their freedom of movement and their right to participate in decisions which affect them."

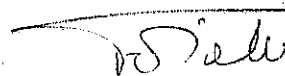
In light of the reports on recent events and developments in Sukénya Farm, the Committee now requests the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to provide the aforementioned information, together with information on its follow up to the Committee's recommendations contained in paragraphs 13, 17 and 18 as soon as possible and not later than 31 July 2009.

In addition, in light of its concern that the situation in Sukenya Farm may lead to further acts of discrimination against the Soitsambu villagers, the Committee, after considering the situation under its early warning and urgent action procedure, requests the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Committee whereby the following interim measures are put in place until the government deliver its findings or the dispute is settled through national legal processes:

- Soitsambu villagers should be granted access to Sukenya Farm for the purpose of grazing and watering their livestock.
- Further commercial development of the disputed land, such as the construction of hotels, roads and houses, should be suspended while the relevant legal authorities deliberate over the disputed legal title to Sukenya Farm.
- The government should undertake to ensure the physical security of the Soitsambu villagers and investigate thoroughly all allegations of brutality and criminality by the police and the security guards of the company occupying the farm.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the Committee's wish to pursue a constructive dialogue with your Government, and to underline that the Committee's request for information is made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Fatimata-Binta Victoire Dah
Chairperson of the Committee for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination