Thank you Honourable Chairman

I want to thank members of the panel for their presentations

The Secretariat of the Africa Decade of Persons with Disabilities welcomes the presentation of the Endorois Community and identify with the struggle for recognition and development.

The struggle of the Endorois Community is similar to the struggle of persons with disabilities worldwide for freedom, recognition and human rights. In our struggle, we have learnt that having policies and legislation in our favour is not enough.

There is a need to ensure that policies, legislation and other supportive measures are backed by practical implementation strategies that have adequate resources in the form of knowledgeable personnel and budget allocations.

My comment of the issue of legal rights and their enforcement is that many African countries (26 in total) have ratified the UN Convention of the Rights of persons with disabilities. This ratification will be followed by concerted efforts to implement and domesticate this convention and its optional protocol where applicable.

Again here, our greatest concerns lie in a number of factors. Some of these concerns relate to growing evidence that unless governments allocate resources to implementation processes, very little progress will be made.

Research evidence also point to the need to re-train civil servants, the judiciary, parliamentarians and legal practitioners on the provisions of the Conventions and any resultant legislation. It is essential that the Convention and laws that flow from it are understood and internalised in the operations of government and oversight structures in order to achieve meaningful implementation.

I thank you.

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