



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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31 August 2012

Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 81st session the Committee further considered, under its early warning and urgent action procedure, the situation of the South Omo indigenous people in Southern Ethiopia in relation to the construction of the Gibe III Dam and the Kuraz Sugar project, as well as the situation of the Mazenger and other indigenous peoples of Gambella in relation to the authorisation granted to the company Verdanta Harvest for cultivation in ancient forests of the Godere District. The Committee would like to thank the State party for the information provided in its note verbale of 25 May 2012 in reply to the Committee's letter of 2 September 2011.

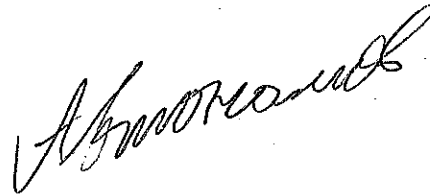
The Committee welcomes the responses and clarifications provided and would like to request the State party to provide updated and detailed information on the measures envisaged or implemented to address discrimination against those communities in Ethiopia, in its subsequent periodic report due to 23 July 2013, as already indicated in the State party's reply (paragraph 32 of the abovementioned note verbale).

The Committee notes the request by the State party to meet with the Chairperson of the Committee to further exchange on the early warning and urgent action procedure. The Secretariat of the Committee will liaise with the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to schedule a meeting during the eighty-second session of the Committee to be held from 11 February to 8 March 2013.

His Excellency
Mr. Minelik Alemu Getahun
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Allow me, Excellency, to reaffirm the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Ethiopia, with a view to assist the State Party in the effective implementation of the Convention, as well as to provide clarifications on the functioning of the early warning and urgent action procedure, as requested by the Permanent Mission.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Alexei Avtonomov
Chair
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination