



Human Rights Council 39<sup>th</sup> session

Agenda item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Speaker: Albert Hengelaar

Date: 11 September 2018

Thank you Mr. President.

The World Evangelical Alliance welcomes the High Commissioner and her oral update.

Across Africa, climate-induced degradation of pasture has become a major threat to the enjoyment of human rights. This area of growing concern that is depriving millions in Africa from their rights, provoking internal displacement, increasing community tension, and leading to violence.

In Nigeria, Fulani herdsmen seeking greener pastures have attacked farmers. In one attack in June, 200 people were killed. This conflict in Nigeria has taken six times more lives than the more highly publicized Boko Haram insurgency. The Fulani are majority Muslim and the farmers are majority Christians, and as you can imagine, the conflict has taken a dangerous sectarian dimension, with some Fulani herdsmen adopting a discourse of Jihad.

The Mbororo nomadic cattle herders frequently traverse the border between Democratic Republic Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic.<sup>1</sup> Their recent movements are leading to increase communal tension in the DRC, and herders-farmers violence is on the rise in that country too.

While the solutions to this conflict should be as multilayered as the problem, we call on the High Commissioner and her office, and on the Human Rights Council, to invest more resources in addressing the consequences of climate-induced degradation of pasture on the enjoyment of human rights.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> "Mbororo cattle rearers invade DRC communities," October 19, 2018, <http://www.panapress.com/Mbororo-cattle-rearers-invade-DRC-communities--12-541637-30-lang4-index.html> [accessed August 29, 2018]