

18th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues
**Item 2: Recognizing the full contribution of minorities to the economic, social, cultural,
political and institutional fabric of our societies**

Friday 28 November 2025

Navamani Murthi
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Vanakkam. I am Navamani, a former garment worker, and the General Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Textile and Common Labour Union, TTCU.

TTCU is a 100% women-led union, founded and led by Dalit women garment workers for all women workers.

We are not outsiders. We are the workers inside the factory, breathing that factory air, drinking that water, spending 10 to 15 hours inside those walls. We live this reality every single day.

That is why I always say, if you want real change inside supply chains and factories, you must work with the people who live inside the factories. Not observers — workers.

When brands engage with grassroots, women-led unions like TTCU, you gain the truth in real time — not delayed reports, not filtered audits.

You gain solutions that are swift, precise, cost-effective and designed for long-term dignity for workers, stability for suppliers, and sustainability of brands.

Thank you.