

## **Indigenous people, Ethnic Minorities, Dalits and other Socially Excluded Groups**

The current development paradigm has victimized and excluded the Indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, Dalits other Socially excluded groups. Land grabbing, displacements, violence and destruction of livelihood continue to persist. Many states have not even recognized our existence, rights, values, cultures and contributions to development. We continue to suffer from extreme and inter-generational poverty. The collective rights of indigenous peoples under the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) continue to be denied by many states. It is abhorrent that the practice of Untouchability against Dalits and those affected by Discrimination based on Work and Descent still continues across Asia, Africa, North, South Americas and Europe.

We therefore strongly urge the HLP to consider these concerns within the framework of Human Rights, Social inclusion and Sustainability underling the principles of non-discrimination and substantive equality; and with Culture as the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar for sustainable development. We therefore strongly recommend:

1. Legislative and institutional mechanisms to recognize the economic, social, cultural and political rights of Indigenous peoples, Ethnic minorities, Dalits and other socially excluded groups.
2. Mechanisms to ensure recognition and protection of the collective rights of indigenous peoples to land, territories and resources and other rights under the UNDRIP (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
3. Strengthen institutional responses and access to justice to prevent and eliminate caste based discrimination and violence by both state as well as non-state actors.
4. Enact cultural and intercultural sensitive policies at the national level especially in the areas of education, health and other basic services
5. Collect disaggregated data and specific indicators for holistic wellbeing of indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities Dalits and other socially excluded groups.
6. Implement rights to free and prior informed consent of indigenous peoples, establish mechanisms to ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities and Dalits in all stages of development.
7. Ensure proportional allocation, access and utilization of state budgets and resources including access to credit and other financing mechanisms for culturally appropriate development initiatives for, by and with the indigenous peoples, Ethnic Minorities, Dalits and other socially excluded groups.
8. Ensure budget transparency, participation and accountability in all development and welfare measures especially targeting indigenous peoples, Ethnic Minorities, Dalits and other socially excluded groups.
9. Establish and strengthen equal partnerships for development including promoting green economies at all levels based on trust and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, Ethnic Minorities, Dalits and other socially excluded groups.
10. Prioritize in all aspect of development, the specific conditions and needs of women, youth, children and persons with dis-abilities amongst indigenous peoples, Ethnic Minorities, Dalits and other socially excluded groups.

**Submitted by the CSO- Working Group on Indigenous Peoples, Ethnic  
Minorities, Dalits and other socially excluded groups.  
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