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Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by "ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization - Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature), a non- governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[9 February 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Commemoration of the International day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in India (GA res. 78/234)

The charter of the United Nations based on the principles of the dignity and equality inherent in all human beings, and that all Member States have pledged themselves to take joint and separate action, in co-operation with the Organization, for the achievement of one of the purposes of the United Nations which is to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (“ICERD” or “the Convention”) is the centerpiece of the international regime for the protection and enforcement of the right against racial discrimination. The doctrine of superiority based on racial differentiation is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous, and that there is no justification for racial discrimination, in theory or in practice anywhere.

The United Nations has condemned colonialism and all practices of segregation and discrimination associated therewith, in whatever form and wherever they exist, and that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of 14 December 1960 (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) has affirmed and solemnly proclaimed the necessity of bringing them to a speedy and unconditional end, considering that the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 20 November 1963 (General Assembly resolution 1904 (XVIII)) solemnly affirms the necessity of speedily eliminating racial discrimination throughout the world in all its forms and manifestations and of securing understanding of and respect for the dignity of the human person. The term also applies to political, economic, or legal institutions and systems that engage in or perpetuate discrimination on the basis of race or otherwise reinforce racial inequalities in wealth and income, education, health care, civil rights, and other areas.

India a diverse country with 29 states and 7 Union Territories, thus promoting “unity in diversity” takes pride in multi-cultures and diversity, once under the degenerative exploitation of colonialism is unwrapping itself from the clutches of imposed characteristic of discrimination, certain legislation enacted to eliminate discrimination of all forms since 1960’s, is exemplary to this end. Provisions Against Racial Discrimination in India is incorporated in Article 15, Article 16 and Article 29 of the Constitution of India which prohibit discrimination on grounds of “race”. Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) also refers to “race”. India also ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) in 1968.

Legislations enacted in India since independence are necessary measures for speedily eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations, and to prevent and combat racist doctrines and practices in order to promote understanding between races and to build an international community free from all forms of racial segregation and racial discrimination.

Through new approaches to intercultural dialogue and learning, youth and communities can be equipped with skills to eradicate harmful stereotypes and foster tolerance. Recent and new manifestations of racism and discrimination call for renewed commitments to mobilise for equality. Racism will not be overcome with mere professions of good faith but must be combatted with anti-racist action. A global culture of tolerance, equality and anti-discrimination should be built first and foremost in the minds of women and men.

Following the conventions and treaty’s signed and ratified that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaim that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race, color or national origin, Considering that all human beings are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law against any discrimination and against any incitement to discrimination.

NGO's working against racial discrimination in India:

Complaint made to an NGO working against 'racial discrimination' help protect and safeguard the victims interest in India. The victim can visit the NGO and make a complaint against the crime he/she faced, with this, he will not only receive help from them but also those people will help to spread the issue further and many people who are needy and poor will also join this cause and file a complaint who wouldn't have in the fear of a legal procedure and the cost. It will not only saves time but also is cost-efficient and enable decide the material quickly and decrease pressure on judicial courts. "ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization - Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature) has actively worked against 'racial discrimination' in rural villages in India and employs multicultural and ethnic people in its activities to end the stigma of racial discrimination in all forms. The "ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization - Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature) with the support of government in an attempt to end the stigma celebrates the international day for elimination of racial discrimination, the government proclaims untouchability and all such forms of discrimination a crime with legal bindings, it has no place in contemporary society.

Gramin Kshetra - SURAJ DUNCAN THONTADHARYA, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial>

<https://www.un.org/WCAR/statements/indiaE.htm>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1779252>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2021/06/29/religious-freedom-discrimination-and-communal-relations/>