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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Mother of Hope Cameroon Common Initiative Group, 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.

[22 August 2023]

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



The Right to Development of People Belonging to the Adivasi Tribes in India

The right to development is about promoting and protecting the individual's ability to participate, contribute to and enjoy development – including economic, social, cultural or political. It envisions that “the human person” should be the central subject, participant and beneficiary in the process of development. Therefore, the right to development is not only a human right, but also necessary for the full realization of all other human rights. The right to development is deeply entwined with the right of people to self-determination, and their right to exercise full sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources.” The right to development, therefore, applies to the entire population of states. My organization wants to bring council attention towards India where Adivasi tribes, Dalits and other schedule caste communities have no right to development for their families and future. Nor any representation of Adivasi tribes in educational institutions, governmental jobs and elected positions and Adivasi tribes continue to remain the most underprivileged class of Indian society: the stigma they face remains evident to this day. In India, Adivasi tribes in general continue to survive under inhumane and degrading conditions. Over 95 per cent of the scheduled tribes still live in rural areas, and economic exploitation remains their most acute problem. Less than 10 per cent are itinerant hunter-gatherers but more than half depend on forest produce for their livelihood and the rest are all marginal farmers or landless labourers. Many are in debt and are obliged to work off their debts as bonded labourers. Now this time Indian government is progressively depriving Adivasi communities of their rights in the land, and they are fined or imprisoned for taking forest produce which has traditionally been theirs. A serious threat to Adivasis is large-scale dam-building, for irrigation and hydroelectricity which is making them homeless.

Police violence against Adivasi tribes is frequent, sometimes led by business tycoons, and has been especially noticeable in situations where Adivasi activists have joined labour unions or made progress in gaining education, economic mobility and right to development. Adivasi women have been particularly badly affected in recent times. They are discriminated against not only because of their sex but also because of religious, social and cultural. Adivasi women have not existed in development policies and programmes. No change has been made in the attitudes of Indian government towards these tribes and communities and they continue to be oppressed and marginalized. From forced by police violence many Adivasis have left forest regions rural areas to live in slums. However Indian government failed to provide them right to education, right to health facilities and right to development. Therefore, we urge this council to ask Indian government to protect Adivasi rights to development and also provide them equal opportunities for better livelihood.
