



Asia Dalit Rights Forum

ADRF is a network of organisations, networks from across South Asia working towards Social Justice and to end systemic violence and discrimination faced by people living in this region.

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF COMMUNITIES DISCRIMINATED ON WORK AND DESCENT { CASTE }

It is encouraging to note that the FfD outcome document has a global framework with a goal to achieve and promote social inclusion, gender equality, peaceful and inclusive societies enabling decent work, productive livelihood for all and respect for all human rights including right to development.

We welcome the steps taken through the FfD3 process in establishing systemic support and allocating resources to achieve the sustainable development agenda. The draft document stressed on effective fiscal policies and good governance as two determining factors, to achieving the transformative goals in the Sustainable Developmental Model.

In order for the FfD3 draft outcome to advance fully towards an equitable global economic growth and development where no country or person is left behind, the agenda needs to focus on the issues and needs of the marginalised communities facing discrimination based on work and descent (caste).

Dalits, Burakumin, Roma, Osu Neeno, Qilambo¹ and those discriminated on work and descent, form over 260 million people world-wide. They face routine discrimination due to entrenched systems of exclusion. Gathered in one place, they would be the 6th largest nation in the world. Women, children and young people are the worst affected. Their issues need to be recognised as an important determinant of poverty and under-development in various countries globally – in Asia, Africa, Latin American, Northern Americas and as well as Europe.

Discrimination based on work and descent, including discrimination based on caste and analogous systems of inherited status creates a web of exclusions. This sustains and deepens inequalities causing obstacles to growth, diminishing development gains. Ineffective allocation of human resources due to discrimination based on work and descent distorts the labour market and affects the efficiency of an economy. This has constrained the progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals in several countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Special measures to be taken by multiple stake holders to address discrimination being a barrier to development:** The Outcome Document needs to recognise the issue of discrimination based on work and descent (Caste and analogous systems) and suggest general and special measures on anti-discrimination to be taken by multiple stakeholders as governments and their agencies, UN and other international agencies, educational institutions, academia, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to overcome barriers in accessing development.
2. **Gender and Caste Inclusion:** Need to focus on the inter-sectionality of gender and other social identities arising out of systems of exclusion. In each regional context gender needs to be further analysed through multiple layers of race, caste, class, ethnicity, disability, sexuality and other forms, which are severe barriers to promotion of inclusive economic growth. For example Dalit women face triple burden caused by severe

¹ Dalits in South Asia, Burakumin in Japan. Roma/Gypsy/Cinti in several countries in Europe, Osu in Nigeria, Neeno in Senegal and Qilambo in Brazil are specific communities or castes who form part of hierarchical systems based on work and descent.

Financial Inclusion of Communities Discriminated based on Work and Descent (Caste)

- *Measures to address barriers to development due to discrimination*
- *Gender and Caste Inclusion*
- *Financial Inclusion of Socially Excluded*
- *Targeted Budget Allocations*
- *Accountable, Inclusive Private Funding*
- *Strengthening Institutions of South-South Co-operation*

vulnerabilities arising out of Gender, Caste and Class identities. Inter-sectionality needs to be foregrounded as one of the guiding principle of financing for development with necessary mechanisms and sufficient resources

3. **Ensuring Equity for the Next Generation:** The large population of children and young people among excluded communities need special equity and social inclusion measures in education, health care, sports and games, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. The FfD should build global norms for equity and social inclusion that can be adapted at global and national levels.

4. **Financial Inclusion of the Socially Excluded:** It is encouraging to note that the FfD Addis Ababa Action Agenda has committed to financial inclusion through MSME financing by the domestic and International public and private actors. The Dalit and other socially excluded communities face barriers in access to credit facilities and market space. In several countries a large proportion of socially discriminated communities are in micro and sub-micro² enterprises. They have restrictions in accessing finances and other credit facilities from both public and private sector banks. There are misplaced notions that they are not viable to lend credit and myths of non-repayment of credit. Evidence in many of the countries has shown that it is the large-scale industries or the corporates who have lower rates of credit repayment. Addis Action Agenda of FfD3 should suggest measures to increase credit flows to sub-micro, micro and medium enterprises largely owned by the socially excluded communities/castes, offer differential and lowered rate of Interest, proactive facilitation centres which guide and strengthen access to credit as well as support in accessing markets.



5. **Strengthen Targeted Budget Allocation:** It is critical to have policies for targeted budgetary allocation for the discriminated communities to enhance access to development. Apart from macro policies for sectoral-development of education, health, urban development, civic amenities, there is a need for micro-development policies aimed at individuals, families and habitation of the socially excluded communities to overcome inherent forms of exclusion and discrimination. These policies need to take the form of entitlements and rights, thus ensuring access and inherent mechanisms to redress and follow-up.

6. **Transparent, Accountable Private Sources of Funding** Too Much of the weight of the developmental agenda is being placed on the private sector. Currently there is an absence of accountability framework for the private sector, which does not include principles of non-discrimination, substantive equality, transparency and participation especially of the socially excluded. These principles need to be built in for the Private Sector and Corporates.

7. **Strengthen Institutions of South-South Co-Operation-** The draft encourages the influence of south-south cooperation to ensure funding for development and data mapping. The regional co-operations like those seen in SAARC, Southern Africa Development Community, Southern Africa Regional Development Cooperation, ASEAN, AU would help specially in mapping the issues and in addressing the problems faced by the excluded communities. Hence we recommend effective guidelines for regional cooperation addressing these disparities and inequalities due to Discrimination based on Work and Descent.

² *Sub-micro Industries are business initiatives which are much smaller than micro enterprises and many a times invisibilised and categorised as 'unskilled labour' which also has very low returns.*