



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.

260 MILLION DALITS APPEAL FOR INCLUSION IN THE POST 2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS!

We welcome the **Zero draft Outcome of Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals** which has called for reducing inequality and giving equal rights for the proposed goals with the motto of **Leaving No One Behind**. **However, the caste¹ based exclusion has failed to get recognized in the final draft**. Dalits and those discriminated on the Work and Descent, with over 260 million Dalit people especially women among them, and those similarly discriminated based on the Work and Descent face the problem of caste based exclusion, segregation and violence. Gathered in one place, they would be the 6th largest nation in the world! Their issue needs to be recognized as an important determinant of poverty and as under-development in various countries especially in South Asia and in some Africa and Latin American countries.

'Leave no one behind' encapsulates a holistic development framework. However this framework needs to take into account the situation of Dalits as those vulnerable and are affected by intergenerational poverty due to inherent systems of hierarchy and exclusion that prevent, discriminate and prohibit access to development and rule of law. Dalits have been victims of discrimination and hate crimes for centuries and have been considered as impure and polluting. Significance of caste in social exclusion is indeed recognized by Post 2015 development agenda (working committee) but seems to have failed to make into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or it's Targets.



We recommend that Caste should be recognized as the major discriminatory or exclusionary factor in development, thus the importance of elimination of caste based exclusion should be represented in the document. For the SDGs to be transformational to 260 million Dalits across the world. It is essential that the goals, targets and the Outcome document takes into account the current realities in many parts of the world and include **descent (caste) based discrimination**.

We also recommend that Dalits and other traditionally excluded communities to have gainful participation in the development process undertaken by Governments and all

development stakeholders. They need to ensure transparency and open data which are crucial to access as well as to monitor the commitments made in achieving the SDGs and the targets. This calls for a commitment to **'just governance'** by the governments to not only being responsive to the needs of the people but also institute greater transparency, accountability and participation in terms of economic policymaking.

To ensure the above, we propose the following edits to the zero draft document:

¹The draft United Nations Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination Based on Work and Descent, 2009 clearly states that "discrimination based on work and descent exacerbates poverty and constraints progress." Caste based discrimination is a dominant cause for poverty in South Asian countries, which totals about 260 across the countries.

1. **Human Rights for all:** In the introduction part of the (The Agenda Section page 4, para no. 17) to ensure that human rights for all does address discrimination on the grounds of Caste.
2. **Quality education:** Needs to include Dalits who are excluded at all level of education (The Agenda Section page 4, para no.22)
3. **Empowering all:** irrespective of ‘Caste’ needs to be mentioned in the list (Page 16: Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries)
4. **Data Disaggregation by Caste:** In Goal 17, under Systemic Issues, subsection 17.18 data, monitoring and accountability (Page 21), data disaggregation among other lists should include **caste**. This should also be mentioned under Section III. Means of Implementation, Goal 17, section 17.18 data, monitoring and accountability (Page 28).
5. **Follow up and Review through rigorous and evidence-based, informed by data which is timely, reliable and disaggregated caste** (Page 29, Section III. Follow-up and Review, sub section 3)
6. **Ensure inclusive and meaningful public participation at all stages of financing and governance processes.** Inclusive and unrestricted civic space at all levels, and provision of timely, quality data and information will enable all citizens to engage meaningfully in budgetary discussions.
7. **Provide timely, comprehensive and forward-looking information** on all development activities in a common, open, electronic format, based on strengthening existing initiatives and encourage all other development actors follow this lead. This principle of Multi-Sectoral accountability needs to apply not only to public institutions but to the private sector, to global governance institutions at all levels sub-national, national and to the international areas, to ensure a level playing field.



Endorsing Organisations/Networks:

Centre for Dalit Rights, India, Centre for Social Equity & Inclusion, India, Dalit Adivasi Adhikar Andolan, India, Dalit and Excluded Minorities Movement, Bangladesh, Dalit NGO Federation, Nepal, Dalit Solidarity Network, UK, Feminist Dalit Organization, Nepal, Forum Asia, India, Human Development Organisation, Sri Lanka, Institute for Socioeconomic Studies, INESC, Brazil, International Dalit Solidarity Network, Denmark, International Movement Against all forms of Racism, Japan, Jagran Media, Nepal, Nagorik Udyog – Bangladesh, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, India, Navsarjan Trust, India, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation, Nepal, Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network, Pakistan, Rights, India, Samata, Nepal, Women in Governance, India, Working Group on Human Rights, India, Regions Refocus, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh Dalit Women’s Federation, Bangladesh, Dalit Women Forum, Bangladesh, Working Group on Human Rights, India, Asia Forum, India, Rashtriya Dalit Network, Nepal, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization, Nepal, Dalit Parliament, Nepal, Dalit National Federation, Nepal, All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch, India, Inclusive Women’s Alliance for Justice, Peace and Democracy (Sankalpa), Nepal, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, India, Yuva Rural Association, India, Jana Vikas, India, Safai Karamchhari Andolan, India, IDEAS, India, Manuski, India, Adivasi Solidarity Network, India, Nazdeek, India, Samvad, India, Policy Forum, Tanzania, Human Rights Federation for Dalit Liberation, India, SASY, India, National Campaign for Adivasi Rights, India, Open Space, India, Dalit Bahujan Movement, India, National Foundation of India, Dalit Action Group, India

Working Group on Inclusion and Elimination of Discrimination based on Work & Descent (Caste)

260 million Dalit, Roma, Buraku, Quilambo and Osu people and those similarly discriminated based on the Work and Descent, especially women among these communities, face the problem of caste based exclusion, segregation and violence. Caste is also an important determinant of intergenerational poverty due to exclusion from access to development and rule of law. Discrimination based on work and descent and other forms of discrimination are not only human rights violations but also major obstacles to achieving development. Inequalities inevitably diminish development gains and are among root causes of armed conflicts. Ineffective allocation of human resources due to discrimination based on work and descent distorts the labour market and affects the efficiency of an economy.

Gathered in one place, they would be the 6th largest nation in the world and It is a great tragedy if once again this issue and people affected by it are left behind unaddressed in the Sustainable Development Goals.

To effectively ensure their inclusion, we propose the following edits to the zero draft document:

1. In the page 4, The Agenda Section, para no. 17- to ensure that **human rights for all does address discrimination on the grounds of Caste.**
2. **In the Page 4, para 22 - Need to include Dalits who are excluded at all level of education.**
3. Page 28- Under Section III. Means of Implementation, 17.18 data, in the monitoring and accountability - **Data disaggregation by Caste to be included.**
4. Page 29, Section III. Follow-up and Review, sub section 3 - **Follow up and Review through rigorous and evidence-based, informed by data which is timely, reliable and disaggregated caste**
5. **Ensure inclusive and meaningful public participation at all stages of financing and governance processes.** Inclusive and unrestricted civic space at all levels, and provision of timely, quality data and information will enable all citizens especially the excluded to engage meaningfully in budgetary discussions.