



Asia Dalit Rights Forum

Note on the Presentations made by Paul Divakar and Deelip Mheske in Inter Governmental Negotiations on Sustainable Development Goals.

Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Zero Draft of Sustainable Development Goals and Targets as the part of Post 2015 Developmental Goals, Dr. Deelip Mheske and Mr. Paul Divakar has recommended the issue of Caste (descent) as an important variable for exclusion in the developmental models.

In the recommendation sections, Dr. Deelip Mheske was the key speaker for the Working Group for Discrimination based on Work and Descent (Caste) in Sustainable Development Goals. In his speech, he highlighted the manner which 260 million Dalits and other communities are excluded from policies, budgetary allocation, developmental resources, legal aid and service delivery on basis of their caste (descent). He further highlighted the how exclusion, segregation and violence are used against the Dalits especially Dalit women halting them from elevating their stationary status of being poor. The gross human right violations, unsatisfactory allocation of developmental measures and human resources and denied legal rights are all had affected in the relative and absolute growth of the community.

Dr. Mheske called for representation of such large percentage of population, which could be equal to the 6th biggest populous state in the world, in the Post 2015 Developmental Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals. He pointed out the importance of inclusion of Dalit representation in Zero Draft of Post 2015 SDGs especially in Paragraph 17, human rights for all should address discrimination based on caste. He further pointed out Paragraph 22, where excluded communities like Dalits needs to be included in all levels of education. Under section III, Means of Implementation (17.18), in Data monitoring and accountability, data disaggregation by Caste should be included. Further in Follow up and Review, it should be through rigorous and evidence based, informed by data which is timely, reliable and should have disaggregation based on caste. Dr. Mheske further points out that the inclusiveness and meaningful public participation should be ensured at all stages of financing and governance process. 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.

In the recommendations section, Mr. Paul Divakar, was the key speaker for Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Participation. Mr. Paul Divakar stated that to effectively implement the commitment of 'Leaving No One Behind' and ensuring credibility of Post 2015 agenda then the principles of transparency, accountability and participation should be at the centre of

sustainable development, follow up and review of the agenda. He called for the participation of the people, especially of the poorest, most vulnerable and most excluded should be strengthened in the declaration. He pointed out that in Paragraph 38, the accountability should be results oriented, human rights and equality based regular and possibility for using timely follow up and review process for improvement of implementation. He also called for the government's commitment in follow up and review by its linkages with all the stakeholders, particularly with civil society. He also called for transparent and open data as a prerequisite for successful monitoring of agenda. He pointed out in Follow up and Review Paragraph 3, suggested addition of a sixth key principle of focusing on the progress of the farthest behind population (social and economic groups), to justify the commitment of 'leaving no one behind'.

Co Facilitator Ambassador Macharia Kamau has agreed to Dr. Mhaske's statement and commented that issue of Caste is something which needed to be taken seriously, with such huge population suffering from caste based exclusion and it is high time address the issue.