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 caste\(^1\) 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 6\(^{th}\) 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\(^1\) 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:

\(^1\)The 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.

Response to Zero Draft of the Sustainable Development Goals
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:**