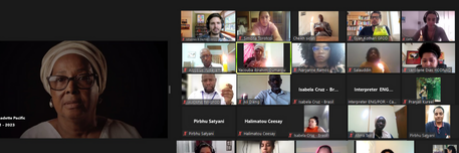


OCTOBER 2023 | ISSUE 15

CDWD MATTERS

Major Highlights

- 1 GFoD at UN SDG Summit 2023
- 2 Global People's Assembly 2023
- 3 Youth Workshop at Kathmandu, Nepal
- 4 Interaction with Nepalese Parliamentarians on CDWD



GFoD @ SDG Summit' 2023

September 16-22, 2023 New York, USA



GFoD gained outstanding achievements through the High Level Side Event with the Honourable Foreign Minister of Nepal, N.P. Saud, the Permanent Mission of Mauritania and Brazil attending the event, and created history as Beena Pallical became the first Dalit woman to intervene at the UN General Assembly. The GFoD delegation engaged in the Civil Society mechanism focused on UN SDG Action Weekend 2023 and the UN SDG Summit, part of the UN General Assembly 2023, alongside various side events and informal meetings such as the Global People's Assembly 2023.



GfOD High Level Side Event: “Broad-Caste” a light on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent at the SDG midpoint and beyond

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
16:00-18:00 EST

“Broad-Caste” a light on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent at the SDG midpoint and beyond

Keynote speakers:



MR MOHAMED SALEM MERZOUG
HON. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MAURITANIA

MR N.P. SAUD
HON. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NEPAL

MS ISADORA BRANDÃO
NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, BRAZIL (TBC)

N PAUL DIVAKAR
Convenor, GFOD

VERCILENE DIAZ
Legal Advisor, CONAO

ALIOUNE MZEIRIGUE
UN Liaison Officer, The Inclusivity Project

BHAKTA BISHWAKARMA
General Secretary, ADRF

SIMONA TOROTCOI
Sr. Researcher, GFOD

RSVP required: bit.ly/SDG2023Summit or scan: LOCATION: HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, 149 E 38TH ST, NY 10016

A buffet-style dinner will be served

SDG SUMMIT 2023  **Parallel Event** **Interpretation in Portuguese is available**



The high level parallel event of the UN SDG Summit took place on Wednesday, 20 September 2023 at the Henry George School of Social Science in New York City. The Honourable Foreign Minister of Nepal, N.P. Saud, attended the event as the keynote speaker, while the Permanent Mission of Mauritania and Brazil participated the event and endorsed the cause.

The event focused on widening political support from governments for the Draft *UN Resolution on the Rights of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent*. It also highlighted the need for the resolution with powerful community testimonies and how the continued invisibilization remains largely hidden and impacts communities through unwritten social hierarchies brutally enforced by the “dominant” groups.

The event witnessed unprecedented political commitment from the Government of Nepal, as the keynote address by Hon. Narayan P. Saud, Foreign Minister of Nepal endorsed the resolution for Communities discriminated on Work and Descent.

The image features the ceremonial handover of the declaration to the Hon. Foreign Minister of Nepal by GFoD Global Convenor Mr. Paul Divakar.



Nepal stands firmly in support of the Resolution on the rights of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent. We believe that by endorsing this resolution, we are not only signaling our commitment to upholding the rights of these communities, but are also pledging to work collectively towards eradicating discrimination, ensuring equal opportunities, and promoting their full participation in all aspects of society.

-Mr. Narayan P. Saud
Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nepal

MS. BEENA PALLICAL BECAME THE FIRST DALIT WOMAN TO ADDRESS THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY



>> Colleagues, I am representing the stakeholder group on communities discriminated on work and dissent

Ms. Beena Pallical became the first Dalit woman to address the UN General Assembly. She spoke during the SGD Summit on September 19, 2023 on behalf of GFoD and the Stakeholder Group of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent. Her powerful intervention focused on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent including the Haratins of Africa, the Dalits of Asia, the Quilombolas of Brazil, the Burakumin of Japan and the Roma of Europe who are scattered across the globe during the session of the world leaders.

The session was chaired by the Prime Minister of Sweden and the President of Senegal. Beena's intervention was made alongside the Prime Ministers of Belgium, Pakistan, Ethiopia and the Presidents of Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Prime Ministers and other Ministers of different countries and the UN agency representatives. The intervention can be viewed [here](#) and the full session can be viewed [here](#).



GLOBAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY 2023

INEQUALITIES AND LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Held on 17th September 2023, this session of the Global People's Assembly organized by GFoD saw participation of the delegation of communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD) and the indigenous. The event was attended by 17 women and 14 men. This session was not only a safe space for some of the world's most marginalised people (CDWD and indigenous) to share their experiences of discrimination, and exclusion from SDGs, but also was an opportunity to learn from each other, and to gain insight on how to formulate better advocacy strategies at the local, regional, and international levels.



PUBLIC PROTEST MARCH

A public protest march was held as part of the Global People's Assembly on Sunday, September 17 2023. The protest started at the UN Church Centre to the Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, passing the United Nations Headquarters. The march aimed to take the voices and messages discussed in the Global Peoples Assembly to the streets within earshot of the world leaders. The Declaration of the Global People's Assembly was read out once march concluded at the Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UN SDG ACTION WEEKEND (16-17) AND THE UN SDG SUMMIT 2023 (18-19) SEPTEMBER 2023

From the SDG Summit to the Summit of the Future: Building the UN We Need

Paul Divakar, Convener of GFoD, stressed during his intervention at “From the SDG Summit to the Summit of the Future: Building the UN We Need” the importance to tackle the the discrimination and the pushed exclusion Roma in Europe, Haratins in Africa, Quilambola in Brazil, Buraku in Japan and other invisibilized communities are facing and ensuring that they are no longer be ignored.



Invisible No Longer: Data Solutions to Leaving No One Behind Dilemmas

Simona Torotcoi, representative from ERGO Network and GFoD, addressed the audience at this Minority Rights Group International side event. Simona discussed the critical issue of the lack of disaggregated data concerning Roma and other CDWD. Disaggregated data stands as a pivotal tool in understanding inequalities and evaluating the progress of Roma inclusion policies.



The UN SDG Summit 2023 on September 18-19

On Monday, September 18, 2023, the SDG Summit opened with an event marking the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the presence of Ministers and heads of the states focusing on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to 2030. The GFoD youth delegates from Brazil and Bangladesh (in picture: Thais, Verciliene and Rohan) attended the event.



YOUTH WORKSHOP IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS FROM DESCENT-BASED COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH ASIA: ROLE OF THE YOUTH



OHCHR Indigenous Peoples and Minorities in partnership with the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) and GFoD organized a three days' Youth Workshop, titled, 'Promoting and protecting the rights of persons from descent-based communities in South Asia' in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 4th September, 2023 to 6th September 2023.



WORKSHOP OVERVIEW



DAY-1

Day 1 of the event featured mainly on sessions on descent-based discrimination and its impact. These sessions explored contextual challenges in various South Asian countries, digital disparities and socioeconomic challenges faced by Dalit communities in Nepal and impact of climate change on CDWD and their challenges in disaster management and social protection. Panelists offered recommendations for promoting digital equality and disaster relief among CDWD. The role of youth in advancing equality and human rights for CDWD was highlighted, discussing the importance of international and national legislation, private sector accountability, collaboration, and grassroots action.



DAY-2

Sessions focussed on descent-based discrimination and advocacy within international mechanisms. Michele Buteau, UN OHCHR, discussed the role of the UN conventions, emphasizing individual rights. The following sessions focused on utilizing the UN mechanisms for human rights, including Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies, and UPR. Henri Tiphagne emphasized the importance of using the UN language. Effective advocacy tools were discussed, emphasizing multi-pronged approaches, media, research, storytelling, and innovation.

DAY-3

Day 3 focused on engaging with the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). Sessions discussed NHRI roles and good practices in combating descent-based discrimination. Panelists from various countries shared experiences, challenges, and the importance of collaboration. Key themes included NHRI's role in addressing a wide range of human rights issues, strategies to enhance investigations and complaints management, and the importance of influencing national policies and international advocacy. The summary session emphasized advocacy, effective complaint mechanisms, and human rights education strategies to address discrimination and engage with NHRIs.



VOICES FROM THE YOUTH

Inadequate infrastructure, low educational levels and digital illiteracy creates Digital divide in Nepal. Making digital tools affordable and accessible is important. Another important step is to invest in digital education and providing digital literacy program for the marginalized communities and girls.

- Kunjani Pariyar, Human Rights Lawyer, Nepal



The goal of advocacy is to spur action that leads to desired change in policies, practices, attitudes or behaviour. Innovation, creativity and timing are very important in developing advocacy tools.

- Mary James Gill, Executive Director, Centre for Law and Justice, Pakistan.



There is a need to ensure representation and effective participation of the Madhesi Dalit community in Nepal which is further excluded in the Dalit community. We must have also ensured that non-English speakers were not barred from participation due to the linguistic barriers.

- Sona Khatik, Journalist, Nepal



The National Human Rights Institution should be more active in Sri Lanka. It is essential to give more attention to communities whose rights are violated due to disadvantageous conditions, such as Plantation workers in Sri Lanka. Also, addressing language barriers is crucial to make human rights institutions access

- Anushka Jayasanka, Project Officer, Women's Solidarity Front, Sri Lanka



FORGING SOLIDARITY with the Nepal Government, Parliamentarians, and Civil Society to support the cause of Protecting and Promoting CDWD rights at the United Nations



On 7th September 2023 at Indreni Complex in Kathmandu, Nepal, a significant event brought together Nepalese Parliamentarians, South Asian Civil Society organizations (CSOs) and United Nations (UN) delegates to continue the dialogue among Dalit communities and the journey at the UN. The event, organized jointly by GFoD and ADRF, was attended by CSO representatives from 5 countries in South Asia, including Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Honorable N.P. Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal was also present.

The CSO representatives presented the concerns of Dalit communities in their respective countries and the prospective way forward before the Parliamentarians of Nepal. Esteemed Members of Parliament (MPs) of Nepal including i.e., Jeevan Pariyar, Santosh Pariyar, Ranendra Baraili, Bhubwan Sunar, Prabhu Hajara Paswan, Harka Mmaya Bishwakarma, Jitu Gautam, among others, expressed readiness to work within the government of Nepal in the process of legislation and called for greater collaboration amongst other South Asian countries.

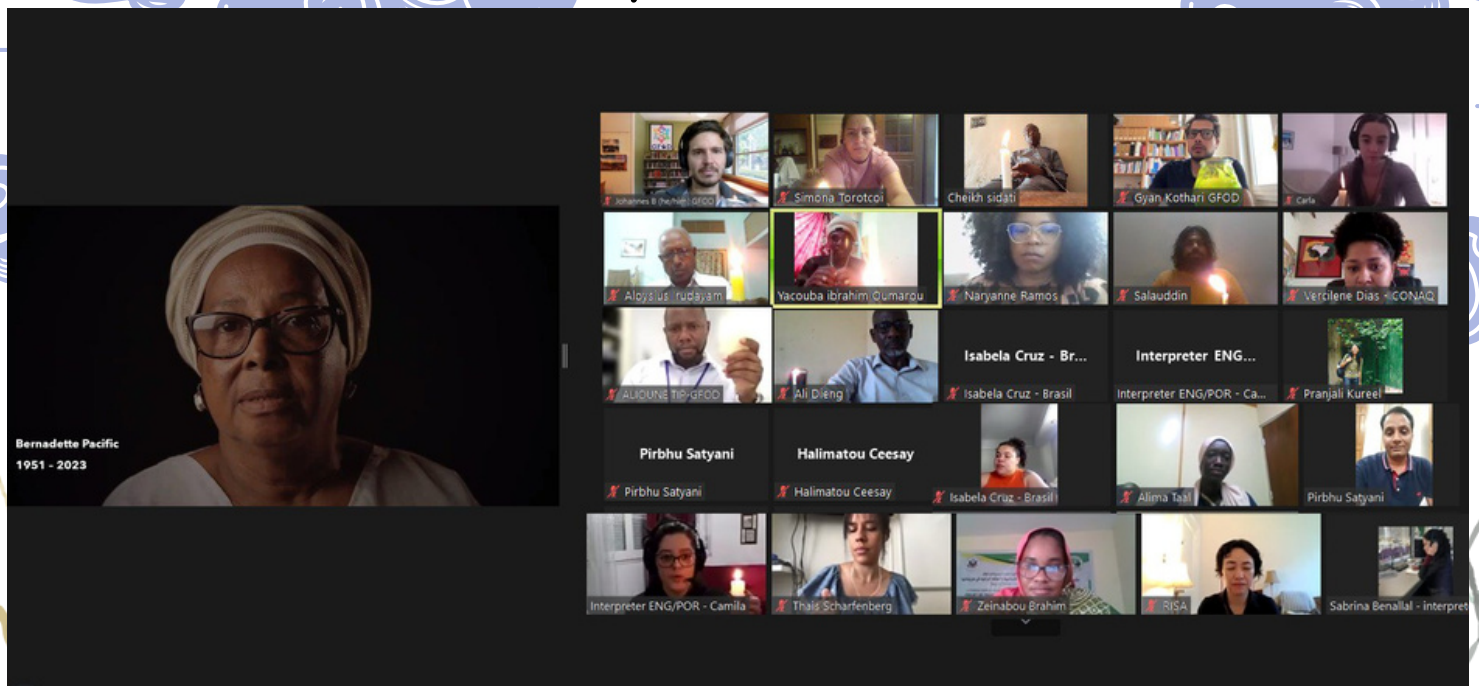
Representatives from the UN agencies including Mr. Miloon Kothari, former UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, attended the event and they emphasized the crucial role of parliamentarians in connecting international initiatives to grassroots efforts. The event called for joint efforts to address discrimination against Dalit communities at the national, regional and international levels.

REMEMBERING DOÑA BERNADETE, A FEARLESS QUILOMBOLA ACTIVIST

Doña Bernadete was a Human Rights Defender, Leader of Quilombo Pitanga dos Palmares, National Co-ordinator of CONAQ. A life dedicated to the defence of ancestral territory, identity, freedom of religious expression, respect, and Quilombolas rights, she was assassinated on the night of 17 August 2023 in her home, in her quilombo, located in the municipality of Simões Filho, in the metropolitan region of the city of Salvador, Bahia. This is also where six years ago her son, Binho do Quilombo, was also brutally murdered for the same reason: fighting for their rights and resisting to exist.

Doña Bernadete's legacy continues to serve as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for justice and recognition faced by Quilombola communities, and her sacrifice fuels the determination of those who carry on her mission.

Remembering the fierce personality that she was, GFoD held an online vigil on 12th September, 2023 in solidarity with the Quilombola community.





In the next issue, hear about:

- Gender Mainstreaming at GFoD
- GFoD Delegation at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and NGO Forum events in Arusha, Tanzania
- Resolution adopted at the NGO Forum of ACHPR on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Communities Discriminated based on Work and Descent



WRITE
TO US!

Send us your pieces (short write-ups, photo stories, poetry, art etc.) relevant to CDWD in your region at gford@globalforumcdwd.org - and get a chance to feature in our next issue and social media!