

Proposed Amendments to UN Pact for the Future: Rev 2

virtual consultation on the Summit of the Future with the Co-Facilitators on 31 July 2024¹

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The Stakeholder Group of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent comprises representatives of various communities including Haratins, Soninke and others in Africa, Quilombola and Palenques in Latin America, Roma in Europe and Burakumin and Dalits in Asia number more than 270 million people globally. This discrimination based on work and descent involves exclusion and segregation based on inherited status, such as caste, occupation, family, community, or social origin, impairing human rights and freedoms deeply embedded in societies.²

The Stakeholder Group of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (SG CDWD), part of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, proposes amendments to the Pact for the Future: Rev 2. While the Rev 2 document addresses key issues commendably, specifically non-discrimination and equal treatment, we recommend additional amendments to ensure this specific form of discrimination is addressed in order to ensure the rights of communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD)³ are adequately protected. These communities are left behind, left out of key national and regional policy documents and sustainable development strategies. They face unique challenges that must be explicitly recognized and addressed within the framework to promote their inclusion and safeguard their human rights effectively. Our 2024 SDGs position paper, titled [Excluded but Essential: Contribution of CDWD to the Sustainable Development Goals](#), is enclosed. In the absence of a coherent global framework addressing DWD, we urge the concerned parties to consider these amendments to enhance the impact and inclusivity of the Pact for the Future.

Proposed Amendments:

With regards to **Action 8, Paragraph 24 (b), of Rev 2** we suggest strengthening participation of women, particularly those belonging to

¹ Letter https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sof_co-facs_csos_letter_rev2_240718.pdf
Rev 2 https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/pact_for_the_future_-_rev.2_-_17_july.pdf.

² See *Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination Based on Work and Descent*

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session11/A-HRC-11-CRP3.pdf>

³ In 2017, the UN Network on Racial Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities developed a significant and comprehensive document on Key Challenges and Strategies to Combat Caste-based and Analogous Forms of Discrimination
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Minorities/GuidanceToolDiscrimination.pdf>

communities discriminated on work and descent in global and national political governance structures through an effective quota system that facilitates their access and participation.

Under **Action 8, Paragraph 24 (c)** we urge, recognising the violence and discrimination experienced by women and girls from Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent, specifically gender based violence, domestic and intimate partner violence, including women and girls who are bound by sexual slavery regimes.

Formally recognize and acknowledge the existence of discrimination based on work and descent at all levels, which is crucial for addressing the systemic issues faced by communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD) globally and for ensuring their inclusion in the sustainable development efforts. Therefore, we respectfully urge the inclusion of “**discrimination based on work and descent**” in **Rev 2 Action 13, Paragraph 31 (b)**, specifically alongside the other forms of discrimination and exclusion listed.

Under **Action 14, Paragraph 32**, add “**communities discriminated on work and descent**” as one of the vulnerable groups, recognising that the historical and systemic roots of discrimination based on work and descent as potential sources of tension and conflict, undertaking investigations to understand how discrimination contributes to instability and insecurity within and across nations, and taking early steps to prevent major conflict that hampers peace and security within state and national boundaries.

Within Action 33 “Ensuring that science, technology and innovation contribute to the full enjoyment of human rights of all”, **we request** the addition of special measures for the protection of job losses through job upskilling and training as more routine and manual types of labour, specific to communities discriminated on work and descent, are becoming mechanised.

In Action 18, Paragraph 36 (c), we propose adding the following: "(c) Eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, religious intolerance and all other forms of intolerance and discrimination, “**including discrimination based on work and descent**” from our societies and promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue”.

Women from the communities discriminated on work and descent experience multiple burdens of descent, class, work, and gender - leading to further systemic exclusion. Not only does lack of access to digital technology leave them further behind in the economy, but digital technologies are contributing to discrimination - and have growing potential for greater discrimination. In

Action 34, Paragraph 55, we recommend adding the following: "...exacerbate existing gender inequalities and present serious risks to all women and girls, **especially for those discriminated against on work and descent.**"

We would further like to acknowledge the wording of Rev 2 document - **Action 36, Paragraph 58** "millions of children and young people are deprived of the conditions they need to reach their full potential and fulfil their human rights, especially those in vulnerable situations". Within this, we urge to include "**and those discriminated based on work and descent**" in **Action 36, Paragraph 58, of Rev 2**. For young people belonging to CDWD, poverty is both a cause and a consequence of the exclusion and discrimination experienced on a daily basis.

Under **Action 37, Paragraph 60**, *insert*, the provision of education, employment, training and skill development for youth from communities discriminated on work and descent who are disadvantaged when they reach working age, as most are denied a chance of going to school and their prospects for decent work in youth and adulthood are severely constrained.

Under **Action 37, paragraph 60 (c)** *insert measures to* protect children i particularly those from communities discriminated on work and descent (due to their vulnerabilities), from economic exploitation and performing any work that is likely to be hazardous, or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

We respectfully request the inclusion of "**communities discriminated on work and descent**" in **Action 38, Paragraph 61, of Rev 2**. These intersecting forms of discrimination are currently overlooked, resulting in the invisibilization of these communities, and has perpetuated their exclusion, especially for women and girls.

We respectfully request the inclusion of "**women**" alongside youth, but also of "**work and descent based discrimination**" in **Action 38, Paragraph 61 (a), of Rev 2**.

We welcome the commitment "to allow for the meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders, while reaffirming the intergovernmental character of the United Nations and the unique and central role of States in meeting global challenges," yet we call for an explicit reference to "**Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS)**" in **Action 41, Paragraph 66 (d), in Rev 2**: "to allow for the meaningful participation of **Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) and other** relevant stakeholders, while reaffirming... "In light of shrinking civil society spaces, MGoS is an independent, self-organized civil

society network, actively working towards the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.

We welcome the commitment to “Facilitate more structured, meaningful and inclusive engagement of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in the activities of the Council,” yet we call for an explicit reference to **“Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS)” in Action 44, Paragraph 68 (b), of Rev 2.** MGoS were integral to the development and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since its adoption, MGoS, through its 21 Stakeholder Groups, have been actively working towards its implementation, through projects, initiatives, advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.

We applaud **Action 46, Paragraph 70(c) of Rev 2,** and we propose the following: “Ensure accessibility and disability inclusion at the United Nations to allow for the full, meaningful and effective participation and equality of persons with disabilities, **and of underrepresented and marginalised communities, including those belonging to communities discriminated on work and descent** in all aspects of the United Nations’ work.” In addition, we propose to formalise the existing Informal Working Group on Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent, and establish a unique space at the global level through a United Nations Working Group, an Expert Working Group or a Permanent Forum for Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent so they can strengthen their interface with the UN system and participation in decision-making regarding their human rights.

Under **Action 47 Paragraph 71,** recognising that discrimination and hate speech are exacerbated for specific vulnerable communities, **we urge the inclusion of** laws and policies at the state level to protect communities discriminated on work and descent from online discrimination, hate speech and enable their access to justice for redress.

The commitment of **Action 48 of Rev 2** on accelerating reform of the “international financial architecture to address the challenges of today and tomorrow” is essential. Ensure reforms are adapted to include the rights and concerns of communities discriminated on work and descent and their participation in the development of reforms of the international financial architecture to ensure it delivers more effectively and fairly, particularly in the Global South, including through objectives that are aligned with the SDGs, debt sustainability, Socially Responsive Investment Funds and a global financial safety net.

We welcome the commitment “to mobilize adequate financing to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, respond to the needs of developing countries and direct financing to those most in need” in **Action 50 of Rev 2**. In this respect, consider the inclusion of specific excluded and marginalised groups (such as the Roma in Europe, Dalits in Asia, Burakumin in Japan, Haratin in Africa, and Quilombola in Brazil, among others, as the largest DWD communities left behind), in the design and decision making of budgeting and finance schemes so that the allocation of resources are targeted, accessible and designed to address the unique forms of discrimination experienced by these communities. Encourage state parties to implement targeted budgeting through the allocation of a dedicated portion of the national budget to specifically support the development needs of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent, especially women.



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