

Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD)

Engagement in the 2026 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

For the last few years, the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent as part of the UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, has been engaging in the National Voluntary Reviews (VNRs), presenting the viewpoint of our communities across the world (i.e., Roma, Haratins, Buraku, Dalits, Quilombola, etc.). Across the globe, communities discriminated on work and descent (CDWD) have been left out of national sustainable development strategies and action plans. Ensuring “No one is left behind” in the developmental planning and implementation of the SDGs is one of our key priorities.

COUNTRIES & COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN IN THE 2026 VNR CYCLE

GFoD aims to bring attention to the issues faced by Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania; Quilombola and Afro-Brazilian communities in Brazil; Kibsi/Kisba and former slave-descendant communities in Burkina Faso; Batwa communities in Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Mbororo, Baka, and Bakola communities in Cameroon; Roma and other marginalized minority communities in Estonia, Italy, and the Republic of Moldova; Batwa and other historically excluded groups in Malawi and Mozambique; Haratin/Mauritanian-origin and caste-affected communities in Senegal; Bantu Somali and occupational minority communities in Somalia; and communities affected by hereditary status systems in Togo.

KEY CHALLENGES FOR CDWD COMMUNITIES IN SDG PROGRESS

- Structural exclusion and systemic discrimination based on work, descent, caste, ethnicity, race, social origin, and inherited status, limiting equal access to rights, opportunities, and services.
- Economic marginalization, reinforced by historical exclusion, unequal access to resources, and limited pathways for social mobility.
- Educational inequalities, including school segregation, barriers to enrollment, high dropout rates, discriminatory learning environments, limited access to digital tools, and reduced opportunities.
- Employment discrimination and occupational segregation, confined to informal, hazardous, low-paid, or socially stigmatized forms of labour and facing barriers to decent work.
- Housing insecurity and spatial exclusion, including informal settlements, forced evictions, lack of land ownership or tenure security, inadequate housing conditions, and limited access to basic services.
- Limited access to healthcare, social protection, and essential services due to discrimination, geographic isolation, affordability barriers, and exclusion from public systems.
- Gender-based and intersecting inequalities, with women and girls from CDWD communities facing compounded discrimination based on descent, gender, poverty, and social status.
- Limited political representation and meaningful participation, resulting in the underrepresentation of affected communities in decision-making processes and policies that impact their lives.
- Lack of reliable, disaggregated data to identify affected populations, measure inequalities, track SDG progress, and design evidence-based policies.
- Restricted access to justice and protection mechanisms, including barriers to reporting discrimination, weak legal remedies, and limited awareness of rights.
- Climate vulnerability and environmental injustice, as marginalized communities are often disproportionately affected by climate change, displacement, and limited access to resilient infrastructure.
- Insufficient inclusion of CDWD perspectives in SDG planning and monitoring, leading to policies that overlook their specific challenges and lived experiences.

Read the full country based issues and recommendations here: <https://shorturl.at/4vbXG>

OR

Scan the QR code



KEY QUESTIONS MEMBER STATES CAN RAISE TO VNR COUNTRIES

1. How does the government recognize and address discrimination based on work and descent (CDWD) within national equality frameworks?
2. What measures are being taken to prevent forced evictions and ensure adequate housing for communities affected by work and descent based discrimination?
3. How are education inequalities being addressed, especially for girls and youth from CDWD backgrounds?
4. What steps are being taken to improve access to employment, healthcare, and social protection for affected work and descent based discrimination communities?
5. How is data on CDWD communities being collected and used for SDG monitoring?
6. What mechanisms ensure meaningful participation of CDWD communities, especially women and youth, in policymaking and VNR processes?
7. How are governments combating racism, casteism, antigypsyism, and work and descent-based discrimination in institutions and public discourse?

GENERAL CDWD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SDG PROGRESS

- Recognize and address discrimination based on work and descent by explicitly acknowledging CDWD communities in national legislation, equality frameworks, human rights strategies, and SDG implementation plans.
- Guarantee the right to safe, adequate, and non-segregated housing by preventing forced evictions, ending residential segregation, securing land and tenure rights, and expanding access to essential services and infrastructure.
- Expand inclusive and equitable education opportunities by addressing school segregation, discrimination in educational settings, dropout rates, digital divides, and barriers to vocational and skills-based training.
- Develop targeted employment and decent work programmes that address occupational segregation, eliminate discriminatory hiring practices, promote access to formal employment, and support entrepreneurship and economic empowerment among CDWD communities.
- Strengthen access to healthcare, civil registration, social protection, and public services by removing discriminatory barriers and ensuring universal and equitable access for all members of CDWD communities.
- Combat racism, casteism, antigypsyism, anti-Black racism, and other forms of descent-based discrimination through public awareness initiatives, human rights education, institutional training, and stronger enforcement of anti-discrimination laws.
- Promote the empowerment and leadership of women and youth from CDWD communities by ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making processes, leadership programmes, and development initiatives.
- Collect and use disaggregated data on CDWD communities to identify inequalities, monitor SDG progress, inform evidence-based policies, and ensure that affected communities are visible in national development reporting.
- Support and strengthen community-led organizations by creating enabling environments for civil society engagement and ensuring the meaningful participation of CDWD representatives in policy design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Integrate CDWD perspectives into national SDG strategies and Voluntary National Reviews by recognizing the specific barriers faced by these communities and reporting on concrete measures taken to address exclusion and inequality.

