



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.

## Response to Zero Draft of the 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<sup>1</sup> based exclusion has failed to get recognized in the final draft*. Dalits and those discriminated on the Work and Descent, with over 260 million worldwide facing the problem of caste based exclusion, gathered in one place, they would be the 6<sup>th</sup> 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'** 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 and edits to the zero draft document:

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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.

#### **Detailed submission to the UN format:**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In Introduction, Page 4, 1. The Agenda section: Human Rights for all must include Dalits who constitute over 260 million people across the globe today: 17. This is an Agenda which encompasses all human rights and will promote dignity for all human beings. It will work to ensure that fundamental rights and freedoms are enjoyed by all without discrimination on grounds of race, colour, [**caste**,] sex, language, religion, culture, migratory status, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic situation, birth or disability.

I. Introduction, The Agenda section: Quality education must include Dalits who are excluded at all levels of education: 22. We commit to providing quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary. All people irrespective of gender, race, [**caste**] or ethnicity, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, children and youth in vulnerable situations, should have access to learning

#### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

especially poor, women, children, persons with disabilities and those discriminated on the basis of **[caste,]** religion, ethnicity and sexuality.

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor, and those excluded by **[caste]** and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations especially excluded on basis of **[caste,]** race and ethnicity and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities **[and exclusionary measures based on race, ethnicity, caste, colour]** in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability, **[race, caste]** and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

7.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls **[especially on marginalized and discriminated population based on race, caste and ethnicity]** in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

7.3 Eliminate all harmful practice, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation and **[forced prostitution Jogini Devdasis]**

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all **[including elimination of manual scavenging]** and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, **[eliminating unhygienic works]** and equal pay for work of equal value

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, **[ caste,]** ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and decrease by [x] per cent the economic losses relative to gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor, people in vulnerable situations **[and people excluded based on race, caste, ethnicity and gender]**

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, **[abolish all anti-people, anti-democratic laws, engage politically with conflict regions and initiate police and judicial reforms to uphold peace and human rights,]** to ensure equal justice to all.

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

*Data, monitoring and accountability*

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, **[caste,]** ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

## **Means of Implementation and the Global Partnership**

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor, **[focusing on inclusion of the excluded population based on race, caste, ethnicity and religion]** and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability, **[discrimination based on race, caste, ethnicity]** and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Goal 17

## **Systemic Issues**

*Data, monitoring and accountability*

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of

high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, [caste], ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

### **Follow-up and Review**

Under 3. Follow-up and review processes shall be guided by the following principles:

- e. They will be rigorous and evidence-based, informed by data which is timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, [caste], ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. Support for developing countries, particularly LDCs, to strengthen national data systems is critical.

### **Proposed Target Revisions**

**Alternative Goal 1:** End poverty and reduce inequality in all its forms everywhere.

**Alternative 1.3:** By 2030, implement universal appropriate social protection measures including floors, with a focus on coverage of the poor, women, children, persons with disabilities and those discriminated on the basis of [caste], religion, ethnicity and sexuality.

**Alternative 1.4:** By 2030 secure equal access for all men and women, particularly those most in need and discriminated on the basis of [caste], ethnicity and religion, to basic services, the right to own land and property, productive resources and financial services.

**New 1.8:** End income inequalities through aggressive tax reforms and just distribution of opportunities and wealth.

**Alternative 3.6:** Achieve equitable access to universal health care, including financial risk protection, and access to safe, effective and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

**Alternative Goal 4:** Provide equitable and inclusive quality public education and life-long learning opportunities for all

**New 4.8:** End discrimination against the children of those excluded on the basis of religion, [caste], economic status in schools and institutions of higher education through stringent laws and by enforcing structural corrections.

**New 5.8:** Protect women and girls of the marginalised groups as they are the most vulnerable by enforcing strict laws to end violence and impunity for violence against these women. **New 6.7**

**Alternative Goal 6:** Ensure the right to water, its availability and sustainable use of water and sanitation for all

**New 6.7:** [By 2030, abolish manual scavenging and provide complete rehabilitation to millions of those engaged in such degrading work ]

**Alternative 8.8 :** Protect labour rights, promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, sex workers and those in precarious employment, and abolish livelihoods of extreme injustice such as [manual scavenging] and ensure the rehabilitation of those engaged in such occupations into decent work.

**Alternative 8.4:** By 2030 achieve full, productive, decent employment and livelihood for all women and men, including for the poorest and those excluded on the basis of religion, **[caste]**, etc., the most vulnerable such as those displaced due to natural disaster or conflicts, young people and persons with disabilities with the guarantee of equal pay for work of equal value

**New 8.6:** Guarantee access to employment opportunities by enacting equal opportunity laws that prohibit discrimination along the lines of gender, religion, ethnicity and **[caste]** in capital markets, hiring decisions and processes at the work place

**Alternative 10.1:** By 2030 sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average

**Alternative10.2:** By 2030 reduce economic, social, and environmental inequalities of opportunity and outcome among social groups through reducing wealth inequality between richest 10% and poorest 40%

**New10.d:** by 2030 ensure the availability of high-quality, timely and disaggregated data to ensure monitoring of progress for marginalized groups and people in vulnerable situations

**New 15.8:** Defend people's rights to land and forest, safeguard forest and other natural resources by promoting self rule, local planning and ownership, social audits.

**New 15.9:** Make land acquisition by the private sector subject to stronger scrutiny and ensure the rehabilitation and resettlement of the displaced without interrupting their quality of lives, cultural practices, emotional well being and livelihood.

**Alternative 16.3:** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, abolish all anti-people, anti-democratic laws, engage politically with conflict regions and initiate police and judicial reforms to uphold peace and human rights.

**New16.9/earlier 16.9:** by 2030 recognize the number of internally displaced persons and refugees and minorities, including linguistic, ethnic **[caste]**, religious and sexual, in all countries as citizens with equal rights