

Draft Resolution on the Rights of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations including the Preamble and Articles 1, 2, 7, 10, 13, 21, 26, 55 and 56,

Recalling the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles contained therein,

Reaffirming that every individual is entitled to all the rights and freedoms laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights without distinction of any kind, including race, colour, sex/gender, age, language, religion, social origin, property, birth, sexual identity or other status,

Reaffirming further Article 1.1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, General Recommendation 29 of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Articles 4,6,8 20, 23,24 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 2,6 7, 10 and 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Articles 1.1 and 3 of International Labour Organisation Convention 111 and Recommendation no. 111, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant human rights standards,

Recalling further the definition of discrimination based on work and descent provided within the Draft Principles and Guidelines¹ - “Discrimination based on work and descent is any distinction, exclusion, restriction, or preference based on inherited status such as caste, including present or ancestral occupation, family, community or social origin, name, birth place, place of residence, dialect and accent that has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, or any other field of public life. This type of discrimination is typically associated with the notion of purity and pollution and practices of untouchability, and is deeply rooted in societies and cultures where this discrimination is practiced.”,

Recalling further that the Sustainable Development Goals seek to realise the human rights of all and leave no one behind, in particular, communities and individuals that are most marginalised such as those that have historically, and continue to, suffer discrimination based on work and descent,

¹ Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent, Human Rights Council 11th Session, 18 May 2009, Final report of Mr. Yozo Yokota and Ms. Chin-Sung Chung, Special Rapporteurs on the topic of discrimination based on work and descent

Acknowledging that discrimination based on work and descent affects more than 260 million persons spread across all continents, and that multiple, aggravated and intersecting forms of discrimination impact women, children and youth, persons with disabilities and those of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, which makes them more vulnerable to violence and to denial of their human rights on an equal basis with others,

Strongly concerned about discrimination based on work and descent, including discrimination based on caste, and analogous systems of traditional and modern forms of slavery, inherited status and untouchability, as a violation of human rights and international law,

Noting the lack of human rights standard setting that addresses discrimination based on work and descent,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to acknowledge the existence of discrimination based on work and descent as a distinct form of discrimination that deserves the attention of the international community and that affects communities around the world including but not limited to Quilombola in Latin America, Roma in Europe, Dalits in South Asia, Burakumin in Japan and Haratin in Africa and similarly placed peoples across all regions,
2. *Further calls upon* Member States to take all necessary constitutional, legislative, administrative, budgetary, judicial and educational measures to eliminate discrimination based on work and descent in their respective states and to respect, protect, promote, retribute, implement and monitor the human rights of those facing this discrimination including through robust disaggregated data collection in line with data protection and data privacy principles,
3. *Urges* Member States in collaboration with National Human Rights Institutions, civil society organisations and human rights defenders belonging to communities discriminated based on work and descent to combat prejudicial beliefs and practices in all their forms, including notions of untouchability, pollution and caste superiority or inferiority, as well as to prevent human rights violations taken on the basis of such beliefs,
4. *Requests* the Human Rights Council and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to contribute to the full realisation of the rights of communities discriminated based on work and descent through the mobilisation, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance at the global as well as regional level.