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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 May 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Rising of Human Trafficking in India

Trafficking in persons refers recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring by force, coercion, fraud or some other form of deception—for the purpose of exploitation. Many of the practices associated with trafficking are prohibited under international human rights law. For example, human rights law forbids debt bondage, slavery, servitude, child sexual exploitation, forced marriage, and enforced prostitution as they are human rights violations. In country like India human trafficking is on rise where lack of education and awareness makes women and men from low-earning and less privileged backgrounds vulnerable to human trafficking, while children are easy to prey on. Some traffickers kidnap children from public places, including railway stations, entice girls with drugs, and force girls as young as 5 years old to take hormone injections to appear older for sex trafficking. The traffickers also kidnap and force Indian and Nepali women and girls to work as ‘orchestra dancers’, especially in Bihar, where girls perform with dance groups until they have repaid fabricated debts. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh are major source states for economically vulnerable workers potentially exposed to labour trafficking.

In India, Sexual exploitation and bondage labour is the most common and prevalent form of human trafficking. Traffickers kidnap and abduct women, trap them in false debt bondage and lure young girls in the name of work opportunities in big cities. Every year, many NGOs rescue thousands of victims of sexual exploitation from prostitution. Human trafficking in India involves many forms of forced labour and exploitation other than commercial sex exploitation, such as domestic work, organ removal, begging, child soldiers, forced marriages and debt bondage. During June 2022 to April 2023 6,622 trafficking victims have been identified by NGOs. In 2022, over one thousand human trafficking cases were reported with almost three thousand victims across India and those cases not reported are other than that. The state of Maharashtra had the highest number of human trafficking cases in the country with over 273 cases. India does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and despite increasing cases of trafficking government made no efforts to its national action plan (NAP) to combat trafficking in persons or amend Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code to remove the requirement of force, fraud, or coercion to prove child sex trafficking. We urge this council to ask Indian government to take concrete steps to stop human trafficking and ensure immediate recovery of victims of trafficking.
