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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 Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi, 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.

[22 January 2024]

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



Extreme Poverty in India and Its Effect on Human Rights

Poverty can be both a cause and a result of human rights violations, meaning that not only a failure to fulfil human rights can cause poverty, but also that poverty itself can increase human rights violations.

My organization wants to bring council attention towards India where it continues to have the largest concentration of world's poor, estimated at 159.8 million to 192.8 million people using the international poverty line of purchasing power parity of \$2.15 a day.

According to the reports of National Sample Survey which suggests that for first time in four decades, average monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) in real terms declined by 3.7% from Rs 1,501 in 2022 to Rs 1,446 in 2023, implying that poverty increased in India. Decline was sharper in rural India (8.89%) as compared to that in urban India (2.2%). This finding would have been embarrassing for a government which came to power on 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' slogan going for Lok Sabha election in December 2023.

As per UNDP report 2022, India continues to have highest number of poor people in world at 228.9 million. Report cautions states that levels of undernutrition in India are still very high, based on indicators covering education, health and standard of living.

Credit Suisse, which compiles global wealth statistics, notes in its 2022 report that wealth inequalities in India are rising rapidly, with the top 1% of population accounting for 41% of national wealth.

A World Bank report (Poverty and Shared prosperity 2022) indicates that 70 million people fell below poverty line of \$2.15 per day in the world of which India alone accounted for 80%.

Rather than criticising reports & studies with adverse findings as handiwork of anti-nationals and Urban Naxals, Modi regime should note & address growing poverty, inequality, agrarian distress, & unemployment.

According to 2023 global poverty update of world Bank, India accounts for almost 70% of global extreme poverty (the revisions to the India series are explained in the What's New document). At the \$3.65 poverty line, India accounts for 40% of the slight upward revision of the global poverty rate from 23.6% to 24.1%. At the \$6.85 poverty line, virtually no change is observed in global poverty estimates.

Growth without equity is not sustainable. Poverty in India is standing like a demon in front of Indian government. 20 crore people are still living below poverty line. As many as 23 crore people have less than Rs 375 income per day. There are four crore unemployed people in the country. The labour force survey says that India has an unemployment rate of 7.6%. The Modi government appears to be still in deep slumber. Its recent Rozgar (Job) Mela promising 10 lakh jobs over the next one & a half years is a pipe dream as Modi in 2014 had promised two crore jobs per year that could not materialize. Hundreds of thousands of children die each year from hunger, and more than one third are stunted even as Indian billionaires' race up global wealth charts.

Therefore, this august council to ask Indian government to take measures to eradicate poverty and secure economic rights of its citizens.
