

09 July 2021

Intervention from the floor at 2021 HLPF

"Vision and priorities of civil society, the private sector and other major groups and stakeholders: realizing the SDGs during the COVID-19 recovery"

Friday, July 9 at 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm EDT (New York time).

On behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent

Zakir Hossain

(2 min Speech)

Thank you, Excellency,

My name is Zakir Hossain from Nagorik Uddyog, Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent

More than 260 million people across the world are discriminated on the basis of work and descent/face caste-based discrimination. These communities are among the most marginalised and excluded in terms of political, social and economic development. The multi-dimensional impact of COVID-19 range from poverty, hunger, unemployment, denial and limitations to access healthcare services, increased incidents of violence and stigmatization, and much more. The impact on DWD Communities is far worse due to the historical exclusion they have faced and continue to face.

Any progress towards the 2030 Agenda must not leave DWD Communities behind.

We therefore propose:

- Prioritising the collection of disaggregated data of all individuals and communities to enhance identification of those who have not secured relief entitlements and to ensure that efforts can be made in future for more pointed relief for the most marginalised.
- Revamp the spending structures for relief, taking into consideration short term, medium term and long term needs for relief and recovery assistance. Increased spending and targeted, gender responsive budgeting is necessary.
- Introduce social security measures especially for livelihood and income security of informal/unorganised sector workers. Regular monitoring of these social security schemes to ensure their effective implementation.
- Anti-discrimination and prevention of atrocity laws must be enacted and implemented properly in order to ensure the safety and protection of those who are most vulnerable to exploitation,

violence and discrimination. Laws must also ensure the accountability of the State administrative mechanisms.

- Representation of DWD communities in local government is necessary to ensure that their voices are heard and that necessary relief is afforded to the community members.

Thank you.