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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 "ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization - Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature), 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.

[18 August 2023]

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



Securing Indigenous Peoples' Rights by the Government of India Through Legislative Methods – A Successful Way to Replicate with Indigenous Communities

Developmental projects certainly create infrastructure, promise new horizons and ease standard of living for better and promised lives, it simultaneously affects indigenous people, particularly forest dependent communities leading to displacement of such communities whenever such developmental projects are initiated.

Indigenous people are forest dependent communities in India, often wander deep in forests for livelihood, illiterate, backward and are vulnerable to displacement wherever large Developmental projects of dams, airports, roads of connectivity are grounded. Displacements means leaving homes, abandoning cultivable lands and more over giving up psychological attachment to the surroundings they lived in which means scattered livelihood. Translocation to new place implies identifying place to settle in, deforest freshly to pave for cultivation who in turn earn the wrath of ecologists and nature conservationists labelling them as “forest encroachers”.

The act of displacements exert stress on indigenous women who are burdened to relocate to new and further remote areas to avoid such displacements in future, create new settlements, wander deeper in forests in search for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) for their sustenance.

Government of India promulgated the Forest Rights Act 2006 to confer indigenous people with title rights over cultivation lands, fishing rights in waters, grazing rights in forests, complete rehabilitation for the already displaced people of the vulnerable forest communities and ensures no displacement recurs with implementation with the above legislation.

Forest Rights Act (FRA) is boon to indigenous women where the government issues titles in the names of female member of the family guaranteeing due respect to women, rights over Minor Forest Produces enables women and gatherers to collect forest produce like fruits, to collect, sell and live in nature sustainably.

The legislation also confers rights over the lands for indigenous people who are displaced due to state development interventions without due land compensation and acquired land has not been used for the purpose for which it is acquired within 5 years of its acquisition.

The FRA is incorporated with Resettlement package which secure livelihood of affected indigenous communities, also talks of no resettlement until facilities and land allocation at the resettlement location are complete as required for livelihood.
