

## CECOEDECON

Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON) is a non-profit and non-governmental organization, engaged in a variety of development, research and advocacy activities. its mission is to facilitate the processes of empowerment of partner communities - dalits, indigenous people, the landless, small and marginal farmers, deprived women and children - through both direct and indirect interventions, so that they are able to take action independently and effectively to secure their long-term well being.

*This statement is supported by*

- Ambedhkar Social Institute
- CECOEDECON
- Centre for Dalit Human Rights
- Dalit Adhikar Manch
- Gramin Vikas Kendra
- Humanity & Social Foundation
- Insaf Dilao Action Committee
- Institute for Dalit Development and Studies
- Jai bhim Vikas Shikshan Sansthan
- Lok Vikas Sansthan
- PAIRVI
- Pratirodh Sanstha
- Prayas gramin vikas samiti
- Safai Karmchari Andolan
- Sagar Society
- Sarva Kalyan Sansthan
- Society for Human Dignity and Rights
- UPKAR
- Uttar Pradesh Watch
- Uttaranchal Development Institute



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PAIRVI (Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights & Values in India) is a non-profit advocacy Support organization, which seeks to facilitate and strengthen social advocacy in North and Central India. Pairvi's goal is to promote peoples agenda by creating a supportive climate for advocacy efforts across the region. PAIRVI believes in facilitating positive social change through non-violent means, informing both the public and those who frame public policy. It is committed to enhance capacity of grassroots organization in human rights practice and advocacy with the objective of strengthening human rights infrastructure.



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## EXPRESSION OF CONCERN FOR DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE

DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE  
20-24 APRIL 2009, GENEVA



Document to be shared in Durban Review Conference

We the people, struggles, movements and civil society in India, having assembled for the National Consultation on Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (at New Delhi, India) as a preparatory meeting for the Durban Review Conference,

welcome the decision of the Human Rights Council to conduct the Durban Review Conference (DRC)

strongly condemn discrimination in any form and on any ground which hampers or interferes with enjoyment, realization and access to human rights for individuals, groups and communities, and nations

commit ourselves to uphold the democratic values enshrined in the Constitution of India, the universal standards of human rights and the International Covenant on Elimination of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

having been convinced that the racism and caste based discrimination are altogether different in their sociological, economic, and political perspectives and arise out of entirely different contexts, however,

**on this day of 13th April 2009 we adopt this Statement Of Concern to be expressed and brought into the notice of the Durban Review Conference and the government of India and other state parties that**

we appreciate the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in seeking to achieve elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

we urge the Durban Review Conference to take into consideration the insufficient progress made by the states with regard to DDPA

we request the DRC to strengthen follow up mechanisms related to the Durban Conference

we wish the DRC to prevail over the state parties to ratify the ICERD and come up with declarations with regard

to Art. 14 enabling the individuals and communities to have access to the redressal mechanism of the CERD

we recommend the DRC to include discrimination based on the basis of descent and work as laid down in the General Comment no. 29, and prevention of racial discrimination in the functioning and administration of the criminal justice system as laid down in the General Comment No. 31

we support the DRC in raising the other issues of concern with regard to the violations of human rights and individual and groups' freedoms on account of discriminations based of variety of reasons and express solidarity with the victims of China, North Korea, Belarus, Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Israel and many more countries who are plagued by racial and racist violence and strife and urge the state parties concerned to implement the provisions of the DDPA without delay

we demand from the DRC to include women and children of deprived populations, dalits as doubly discriminated groups and identify and recommend special measures of protection and empowerment for these groups

we expect the DRC to be liberal in allowing participation and representation from the victim groups, civil society and NGOs from all over the world despite reservations from the state parties concerned

### **to the government of India**

we urge the government of India to ensure full and effective implementation of the provisions of the Constitution of India and provisions laid down in other central and state legislations including the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocity) Act, 1989, along with Rules 1995

we urge the government of India to ensure prompt and complete abolition of the manual scavenging in the country, which is a scourge on the humanity, and implement Abolition of Manual Scavenging Act and

strengthen Rashtriya Safai Karmachari Ayog

we demand that all National bodies set up to protect and promote human rights including NHRC, NC SC, NC ST, NCOBC, NCW be strengthened and be given adequate powers to deal with abuse of rights

we prevail upon the government of India to launch a nationwide public awareness campaign regarding the prohibition of atrocities, untouchability and other forms of discrimination against Dalits. This campaign should explain in simple terms what actions are legally prohibited, what recourse is available to dalits and their families etc..

we urge the government of India to reconsider its position on definition of the racism, and racial abuse to include discrimination based on descent and work as requested in the concluding observations of the CERD and General Comment No. 29, and also to include the discrimination against the scheduled tribes, nomadic tribes and de-criminalized tribes and provide adequate, correct and prompt information to DRC and CERD on the discrimination related to these groups

we bring to light of the government of India that millions of people in India deserve protection afforded by Art. 14 of the ICERD and therefore make a declaration to the effect

we demand that participation of dalit groups, victims groups, civil society and NGOs be broadened in the DRC by allowing them

we pursue the government of India to consider and take other measures towards social, economic and political empowerment of the groups disadvantaged by discrimination and especially pertaining to land reforms and redistribution

we request government of India to take position and collective action in the cases of violations of rights of deprived and marginalized communities in neighboring and other countries