**Inputs on Questionnaire in relation to Human Rights Council resolution 47/24**

**On Human Rights and Climate Change**

* **Archana Soreng,**

Member of United Nations Secretary General’s Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

1. Please describe the impacts of the adverse effects of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations. Where possible, please share specific examples and stories.
2. Please share a summary of any relevant data that captures how the adverse effects of climate change have affected people in vulnerable situations, taking into account multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (i.e. discrimination based on a combination of multiple grounds, including disability, gender, race, colour, sex, language, religion, nationality and migration status).
3. Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to support climate action that promotes the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations.

**Inputs:**

1. **Impacts of Climate Crisis, Relationship of Indigenous people with Nature, Human Rights Violation**

**For Indigenous People, Nature is there source of identity, Livelihood, Culture, Tradition and language. The Impacts of Climate Change adversely affect their enjoyment of Human Rights as it not only disrupts their livelihood but also push them towards erosion of their identity and source of existence.**

**Example:**

The Indigenous People are adversely affected by the forest fires, cyclones, untimely rains, floods. Due to which the major source of income of the communities, forest based livelihood and agriculture practices are badly affected. Due to Consistent failure of agriculture crops and constant low produce of the forest based livelihood due to impacts of climate change and no support by the government stakeholders in terms of minimum support price and compensation of the loss and damage. The Indigenous communities are pushed in debt, and also compelled to sell their lands and are forced to change their source of livelihood such as labourers working in the factories and also migrating in the cities to work as house help or any other informal jobs and also there has been instances of human trafficking.

In this entire Transition and forceful/Pushed Migration, where once the Indigenous people were leading a sustainable life in their own agriculture land, forest based livelihood and were as owner of the land and proud of their identity, culture and transition and Contributing to the Ecosystem Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Action through their way of living and traditional knowledge and practices and community led forest protection practices. Are losing their identity, culture and traditions and working as labourers in very unhealthy work environment under gross human rights violation.

Women who are in the front line of community led forest protection practices and whose major source of livelihood is forest based lived and which serves as the source of income for the education of their children which is source of women empowerment and financial independence are opting works are house help in cities and are human trafficked in cities.

1. **Extractive Development Projects and Climate Crisis and Human Rights Violation**

**Extractive Developmental Projects are not only causing Climate Crisis but also responsible for gross human rights violation of the Indigenous People and Local Communities. Extractive Development Projects have been causing air, water and soil Pollution affecting the health of the Indigenous and Local Communities along with deforestation and destruction of the biodiversity and wildlife corridor. Along with these the extractive have been also causing huge land grab, eviction, migration and displacement of indigenous and local communities leading to gross human rights violation.**

**Example:**

The Indigenous people and local communities had always been leaving a sustainable eco-friendly way of living, sustainable and organic farming. They have been protecting the ecosystem, forest through their traditional knowledge and practices, community led forest protection practices and governance institutions. But due to a mineral rich area, it has been heavily exploited by the extractive development projects especially coal, iron-ore and many more. As a result of which the entire biodiversity, ecosystem has be destroyed. The Extractive Development Project emit carbon causing air pollution, they throw their waste leading to soil /land pollution, and they are throwing their waste in the water bodies. This has been affecting the indigenous and communities in terms of their health leading to diseases. Moreover, the extractive developmental projects causes land grabbing, eviction and displacement.

The Indigenous and local communities are promised jobs in the factories at the cost of their land, but in reality they are given low level laborer works with unhealthy work environment and bare minimum salaries mostly not covering the accidental deaths in the factories. It’s always the people coming from other region who are given higher level jobs. There has been deaths due to skin and breathing problems, children are facing acute breathing problems. Moreover, it is only few who get the jobs.

The Indigenous and local communities are also promised compensation at the cost of their land been taken, but in reality they barely receive compensation violating their rights. It’s been seen that the generations have gone and they are yet to receive compensation.

The Indigenous and local communities also state that their land is sustainable, as money compensated at some time will get over and cannot be passed on to their upcoming generations, the jobs will be not be there, as they won’t be able to work after a certain age and the upcoming generation very rarely get those jobs and that’s why they have been advocating for their rights to be recognized over their land, forest and territories to be protected from land grabbed, eviction and displacement.

The inflow of other communities in the regions of indigenous communities and lot of trucks and other transport services also have led to rise in sexual assault over women and curtailing their freedom. There has been also rise of the cases of robbery and accidents.

Thus, it’s crucial to see how the extractive development projects are causing gross human rights violation of the indigenous and local communities such as right to life, right to livelihood, clean air and on multiple levels. Along with this it is also causing deforestation and loss of biodiversity and wildlife. It is also acting as a threat for the communities and preventing them to continue their traditional community led forest protection practices and also leading to erosion of identity, culture and knowledge of the indigenous communities through imposition of the different worldview and structural issue.

**Recommendation:**

* 1. It is crucial to have a holistic understanding and approach towards the impacts of human rights look at the vicious circle of impacts of climate change and human rights of indigenous people, whose Identity, Culture, History, Language and Tradition is Nature.
  2. Recognize and enforce the Rights of Indigenous People and Local communities over their land, forest and territories. Ensure there is free Prior and informed consent in the process of addressing the human rights violation and Climate Crisis in an approach of working together.
  3. Respect the Worldview of Indigenous People and Local Communities, Support, Preserve and Promote their Traditional Knowledge and Practice and Community Led Forest Protection Practices. The Communities have been resilience amidst the climate crisis, it’s crucial to ensure enabling environment and support them and their entrepreneurial skills which can be a major contributor to climate action.
  4. It is important to acknowledge the Human Rights Violations caused to the Impacts of Climate Crisis, Non adequate response/ implementation by the Government Machinery and Institution, Extractive development projects and the Vicious circle of this entire cycle which makes the communities more vulnerable.
  5. Inter-sectionality has to be core, Solutions cannot be proposed looking at the situation of the communities in isolation, it requires holistic understanding of the communities in all the levels and addressing root cause, the initiation of problem, it is crucial to acknowledge also how the imposition of development worldview has a major role in this. Thus it is important to push for paradigm shift in the worldview which prioritizes the health of the nature and people.

1. Please describe any specific policy, legislation, practice or strategy that your Government has undertaken, in compliance with applicable international human rights law, to promote an approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as loss and damage that ensures the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations. Please also note and identify any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability for these commitments including their means of implementation.

**Inputs:**

1. In most of the countries, there are no specific policies undertaken in compliance with the international human rights law.
2. It’s also seen that in most of the countries there is a lot of separate enabling laws and policies as well as lot of contradictory policies supporting the human rights law, however there are no intersectional or specific law.

**Recommendations:**

1. There is a need for the Countries to adopt laws and policies specifically in compliance of international human rights law. And also implementation by the countries who have those laws.
2. There is need for inter-sectionality and acceptance by the different departments of the policy making at the higher levels, as there is often clash in the local implementation level.
3. Please describe any mechanisms and tools that are in place to measure and monitor the impacts of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations.

**Inputs:**

1. There are no mechanism and tools in the place to measure and monitor the impacts of the climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations in most of the countries.

**Recommendations:**

1. The Countries should adopt and implement public consultation with different stakeholders especially the Indigenous and Local Communities, Women, Youth and ask for inputs from the people for framing this laws and policies.
2. The Countries should adopt and implement proactive steps in creating awareness about this policies with different stakeholders, so the people can benefit from these policies and the policies meets its objective.
3. Ensuring free prior and informed consent of the people and participatory approach for developing , measuring and monitoring the mechanism is crucial to ensure working together and taking people along, so that it is along with people and not only for people without involving them.
4. Please identify and share examples of good practices and challenges in the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations in the context of the adverse effects of climate change.

**Inputs:**

**One of the major challenge is that, often the impacts of climate crisis is taken by the degree and not the kind of the impact, which excludes a large chunk of people as it differs in terms of territory and livelihood dependence of the communities, such as the houses which are washed away by flood and cyclone and the entire livelihood (forest based livelihood and agriculture) affected due to mere rain which is due to cyclone or untimely rains.**

**For example:**

During the Cyclones and Floods the coastal areas and embankment areas are adversely affected, the household are washed off affected their right to life, livelihood and health. This is mostly taken into consideration by the government and also highlighted by the press.

However, there are indigenous and local communities who live in the mainland, away from the coastal areas, but they also receive heavy rainfalls and this destroys their entire forest based livelihood. The mere untimely rains affect the communities adversely affects and destroys their forest produce and agriculture crops. This push them towards vicious circle of poverty and debt as there major source of livelihood is affected. This also pushes them to migrate and work as labourers and other unhealthy work environment. This aspect is often ignored.

**Recommendations:**

1. Holistic understanding of Loss and Damage needs to be prioritized and the vicious impacts of Climate change should be acknowledged taking into consideration the both degree and kind of the impacts.
2. Please include examples and good practices that highlight international and multilateral cooperation and approaches that are implemented through close consultation with and active involvement of people in vulnerable situations.

**Recommendations:**

1. Its seen that when the local governance structures and institutions are identified and assessed and the policies are made taking into consideration, it is more enabling and accepted by the communities in ground, rather than top down approach of imposition of policies, which tends to be either contradictory or over lapping the already existing structures leading to conflict.