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**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related
forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Written statement* submitted by Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee, 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.

[20 August 2022]

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



Caste System in India

Caste system in India continues as one of the dominant instruments of discrimination and exclusion of so-called Dalits in India. Dalits are lower castes group in the hierarchy and suffer from extreme form of humiliation, subjugation and oppression at the hands of upper castes in India. The growing violence against Dalits is rooted in caste institution which persists despite legal framework that seeks to eliminate it. Violence is inflicted to remind Dalits about their status in the caste-based social structure, and ensuring that they remain there. Caste atrocities are committed to ensure that Dalits live a life of indignity, humiliation and exclusion from the mainstream society; so that they continue to provide lowly caste-based services and remain at the bottom-rung of society, without access to higher education and entrepreneurship. Violence against Dalit women receives differential response in Indian society due its deeply entrenched caste-based perceptions. A Dalit person faced crime every 10 minutes in India in the past year, cumulating to a total of 50,291 cases registered in 2020, an increase of 9.4% from the previous year, data from the National Crime Records Bureau said. The heinous nature of these crimes is beyond imagination – just in recent past; On 3 August 2021, a nine-year-old girl belonging to India's marginalised Dalit community was gang-raped, murdered and forcibly cremated in capital New Delhi. Caste discrimination is rapidly escalating as a result of Hindu extremism and it is increasingly becoming an international issue therefore my organisation would like to urge this council, to incorporate Hindu caste system in the international legal declarations, to eliminate all forms of discrimination and exclusion based on caste.
