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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 Platform for Youth Integration and Volunteerism, 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.

[13 August 2022]

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



Persecution of Bengali-Speaking Muslims of Assam By Indian Government In The Garb of National Register Of Citizens (NRC)

Emergence of CAB-2016 as an Act of the Parliament following the controversial process of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam led to serious concerns. The situation, so evolved, coupled with Indian government's intent to implement NPR / NRC across the country resulted in resentment at large followed by public protests not only in Assam but across entire India. BJP-led Indian government's move to provide relief only to those non-Muslims excluded from the NRC and the non-Muslims immigrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh & Pakistan, through CAA exposed Modi-government's Hidutva-prone agenda. The CAA was not only opposed by the Muslim community but it was also out-rightly rejected by the intelligentsia, social, political, minority and even neutral Hindu circles at large in India. My organization wants your attention to the critical issue of NRC as an act of parliament and its impact on the large Bangladeshi-ethnic Assamese living in Indian State of Assam.

NRC demands legal documents or proofs of legacy to prove one's identity as a legal citizen, or else, they will be deported. As names of individuals, mostly Muslims, have been found missing from the NRC data, there is rampant fear amongst the Muslim Bengali-speaking community in Assam. The NRC is widely believed to be a practice used to deprive minorities, especially Bengali-speaking Indian Muslims, of their rights. The Indian government's envisaged plan to extend the NRC process to the entire country with so many people facing the threat of detentions and ultimate deportations from the so-called world's largest democracy has been a matter of concern for the United Nations, Human Rights Watch and the United States of America Commission on International Religious Freedom. They all are warning that this could soon turn into a humanitarian crisis of horrifying proportions. If the detainees in the camps end up being expelled from India, and that is the government's plan, this could constitute a wave of forced migration even greater than that triggered by Myanmar in 2017, when hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims were displaced.

Human rights Defenders are deeply concerned about the Indian "Citizenship Amendment Bill" which is seen as an exercise with communal tones. As the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill seeks to make non-Muslims illegal immigrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan eligible for Indian citizenship, this proposition will reduce NRC to merely a list that goes after only one religious community - the Muslims, thus conflicting the Article 2 & 15 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We look forward to a positive response from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to take appropriate action against systematic and planned persecution of Muslims as well as other religious minorities on the hands of Indian government in the garb of various black laws i.e. CAB, CAA, NRC and its grave consequences for the region.
