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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 Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi, 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.

[30 January 2023]

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



Sale and Sexual Exploitation Of Children

UNHRC and Human rights experts always called for concrete steps to stop the sale and sexual exploitation of children, and to adopt a practical approach to effectively implement policies and laws designed to prevent the crimes and protect and rehabilitate victims. Despite all the efforts, such incidents continue to increase, and many victims still do not receive adequate support.

Our organization would like to bring the council attention on India where Indian government is not protecting children from neglect and violence. In India, there are number of challenges and obstacles which have to be addressed as soon as possible regarding sale and sexual exploitation of children. INGO's estimate that between 12,000 and 50,000 children are trafficked in India annually from neighbouring nations as a part of the sex trade. There are estimated 300,000 child beggars in India. In this regard special attention should be paid to the issues of most vulnerable children – children living and working in the streets, children with disabilities and those who need to be protected from extreme poverty and inadequate living conditions.

In India, adequate actions and preventive measures are not implemented by the authorities. Professionals working with children do not have the child abuse prevention skills and enough knowledge for identifying the minor victims of violence. The cases studied by the INGOs revealed the instances in which law enforcement officers were not cooperating with the mobile groups providing the shelter to the homeless children. In terms of actions directed against the sexual freedom and autonomy, problems were revealed related to the identification of incidents, timely and effective investigation, launching of the relevant criminal proceedings and protection of the juvenile victims' procedural rights.

Furthermore, we would like to use this platform to inform about early marriages in India, as prevention and case management still remains a problem. Unfortunately, forced marriages as well as forced engagements are practiced. The main challenges are the low level of public awareness, gaps in service delivery and ineffective response mechanism. These problems are particularly obvious in the mountainous areas and in the regions populated by ethnic minorities, where access to services is complicated by a number of reasons.

All in all, we have to admit that India is facing the serious obstacles and Indian government is failed to perform in this regard. We urge this council to ask Indian government to stop sale and sexual exploitation of children and introduce legislature to protect children.
