



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-third session

19 June–14 July 2023

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Youth Parliament for SDG, 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.

[28 May 2023]

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



## **Common Vision of Peace, Progress and Prosperity - Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir- Historic Opportunity**

G20 meeting in Srinagar, Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir, and Government of India's endorsement of Kashmiri products at the global event.

With the successful epoch-making G20 Summit in Srinagar, Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir got the historic opportunity to showcase its vibrant culture, traditions and tourism potential. G20 Tourism Working Group (TWG) meeting (22-24 May 2023) in Srinagar has opened a sea of opportunities to promote Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir's famous products to G20 delegates attending the Summit. Of such is the Self-Help Group "Gurez Naturals" of Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir.

With support from the Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM), an initiative of Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir to empower people of the region, the women-led group launched the "Gurez Natural" brand, allowing them to sell their products online and overcome commercial isolation. Gurez Naturals include black cumin from Gurez valley and Organic Rajma (Kidney beans) from Tulail Valley. These groups despite being in the challenging terrain and isolated location of Gurez and Tualil sub-divisions within Bandipura district have successfully been launching organic products and set to establish a presence in the international market. They are leveraging this valuable opportunity to expand their reach globally.

With JKRLM-Umeed initiative, Women of Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir are fostering entrepreneurship by establishing women-led self-help groups. They are being empowered and provided with necessary resources and support. JKRLM-Umeed is creating sustainable and inclusive pathways for development in driving positive change for individuals and communities. The recently concluded G20 meeting Srinagar has provided significant benefits to these Self-Help Groups (SHG) and given an invaluable platform to exhibit their products.

Another collaboration of JKRLM and Grass Root Innovation Augmentation Network (GIAN) "Millet Hub", a special food stall at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), G20 Srinagar venue, was aimed to highlight the versatility and benefits of millets while providing a platform for the local entrepreneurs.

The 'Millet Hub' was set up to celebrate the International Year of Millets. Millets, the ancient crops that have been cultivated in Asia and Africa for thousands of years, hold immense cultural and nutritional significance. Recognising their importance, the United Nations General Assembly, inspired by India's initiative, had declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets in March 2021.

The Millet Hub showcased home-grown foods and cuisine made of "Smart food" Millets, which hold a true significance in the lives of every Indian. From traditional millets breads and savoury snacks to innovative millet-based desserts, the menu reflected the creativity and culinary skills of the local self-help groups involved in the project to promote sustainable practices and harness the potential of millets and other eco-friendly approaches to benefit both society and the environment.

The Global event of G-20 Meeting also provided an opportunity for the Kashmiri handicrafts to script a bright future. Handicrafts have been the back bone of the Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir economy since time immemorial, however, this sector was one of the most neglected sectors of Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir, but after 2019, Government of India has given emphasis on this sector and now the Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir handicraft sector is witnessing significant improvement. The world famous Kashmiri Shawls, Carpets, Paper Mache, Wood carving come second to none when compared with others on world stage.

G-20 meeting was a historic opportunity for Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir to showcase to its vibrant culture and traditions. It is set to provide impetus and give a new height to Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir's growth, boost limitless potential of the tourism and hospitality sector and enhance economic prosperity to all sections of society.