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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 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.

[22 August 2023]

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



Civil, Political, Cultural Rights and the Right to Development of Indigenous Peoples from Manipur, India

The Human Rights Council has contributed immensely to upholding, promoting and protecting human rights all over the world. Various interactive dialogues and panel discussions held under this agenda item are very informative and enriching. We are thankful to the council for the same.

We take this opportunity to attract the attention of this august council to the grave situation of human rights in the North East states of India, especially, the state of Manipur. Human rights of people from Manipur including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development are being threatened by a huge rise in drug trafficking. Trafficking of Narcotic drugs has become a crucial problem in this region in recent times.

It has been observed that Manipur is facing the grave challenge of Narco-Terrorism. Narco-terrorism is a multifaceted phenomenon that combines drug trafficking and terrorism. It creates a symbiotic relationship between criminal activities and extremist ideologies propagated by armed non-state entities. It involves the use of proceeds from drug trade to fund and support acts of terrorism, thereby exploiting vulnerable sections of the society and even damaging even the organs of the legal state structure thus undermining legal institutions. There are very high possibilities that recent ethnic clashes that erupted in Manipur are instigated and supported by Narco-Terrorism.

The increase in illegal immigration has resulted in complicated issues. The presence of refugees in Manipur and the north-eastern region gives rise to a range of social, economic, and security concerns -

Social Concerns: The integration of refugees into host communities can strain social cohesion, as cultural and linguistic differences may lead to tensions. Competing for limited resources and services could potentially create resentment between refugees and locals. Gender-based violence, education disparities, and challenges to healthcare access are also significant social concerns.

Economic Concerns: The additional burden on resources and infrastructure due to the refugee influx can strain local economies. Limited job opportunities and increased competition for livelihoods may lead to economic disparities and exacerbate poverty.

Security Concerns: The movement of refugees across porous borders can create security vulnerabilities, as it becomes difficult to distinguish between genuine refugees and potential infiltrators with malicious intent. This situation could be exploited by narco-terrorist groups or other criminal elements, further destabilizing the region. Additionally, the presence of displaced populations may create fertile ground for recruitment into extremist ideologies, potentially fuelling insurgency and unrest.

These above-mentioned problems of immigration coupled with narco-terrorism has raised a huge challenge to the human rights of people from Manipur. The influx of drug trafficking into India's border states, fuelled by narco-terrorism activities from neighbouring Countries, has profound impacts on local communities and society. The convergence of drug trafficking and terrorism has taken root in Manipur, with Chin-Kuki groups exploiting these activities to sustain their operations. The whole situation can be summarised thus -

1. **Emergence of New Golden Triangle:** The traditional Golden Triangle's shift towards India's north-eastern states, including Manipur, has significant geopolitical implications and demands cross-border cooperation.
2. **Refugee Crisis:** The refugee influx from neighbouring Countries into neighbouring states carries social, economic, and security concerns for Manipur and the broader north-eastern region.
3. **Poppy Cultivation Surge:** The rise in poppy cultivation fuels narco-terrorism and criminal networks, driven by socioeconomic factors and lack of alternatives.

4. **Border Security and Intelligence Sharing:** Strengthening border security and enhancing cross-border intelligence sharing are pivotal in tackling the evolving narco-terrorism dynamics.
5. **Socioeconomic Development:** Socioeconomic development initiatives are essential to break the cycle of dependency on the drug trade, fostering stability and alternatives for affected communities.
6. **Rehabilitation and Reintegration:** Rehabilitation and reintegration programs offer a way out for individuals involved in narco-terrorism, preventing recidivism and promoting reintegration into society.
7. **Government Initiatives:** The state government's war on drugs campaign, drug seizure operations, conservation efforts, and population management initiatives highlight a comprehensive approach.
8. **External Aggression:** External aggression from neighbouring Countries-based narco-terrorist groups, in alliance with Kuki militants, poses a complex challenge to regional stability.

Urgency of Addressing the Situation:

The urgency of addressing the Chin-Kuki narco-terrorism threat and its associated challenges cannot be overstated. The interplay of drug trafficking, terrorism, and the displacement of populations has far-reaching implications for security, stability, and socioeconomic progress. The narco-terrorism menace threatens the very fabric of Manipur's society, disrupts peace, and obstructs the path to development. Swift and coordinated actions are imperative to prevent further escalation and to safeguard the well-being of local communities.

Need for International Collaboration:

Given the transnational nature of the narco-terrorism threat, effective resolution necessitates international collaboration. Cooperation among neighbouring countries, international organizations, and relevant stakeholders is paramount. Enhanced intelligence sharing, joint operations, and coordinated strategies are essential to disrupt the networks that fuel narco-terrorism. International assistance can also play a pivotal role in supporting socioeconomic development, strengthening border security, and facilitating rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

In conclusion, the challenges posed by Chin-Kuki narco-terrorism and its associated complexities demand a unified response at local, national, and international levels. Addressing this multifaceted threat requires not only comprehensive strategies but also the collective commitment of governments, communities, and global partners to foster a safer, more secure future for Manipur and the entire region.

So we urge this council to communicate with India to:

1. Consider the issue of the influx of illegal immigrants faced by Manipuri society as high priority.
2. To resolve the issue of illegal immigration resulting in poverty, abuse, and distress in the region in a way which will protect the human rights of all the stakeholders affected by the issue.
3. To recognise and address the issue of Narco-Terrorism faced by Manipur, India. India must acknowledge the emergence of Narco-Terrorism through Kuki Militancy and stop appeasement policy towards Kuki groups.