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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.

[25 January 2024]

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



Civil, Political and Economic Rights of Indigenous Peoples of Manipur

I stand before this esteemed assembly urgently bringing attention to the pressing human rights issues faced by the North East region of India, with a particular emphasis on Manipur.

The rich tapestry of human rights, spanning civil, political, economic, social, and cultural realms, including the right to development, is under serious threat in this region. Manipur, nestled in North East India, is at the epicenter of a complex and multifaceted crisis that requires our collective attention and decisive action.

The indigenous communities in Manipur, notably the Meetei and Naga, find themselves at the crossroads of a grave conflict orchestrated by cross-border narco-terrorist groups. This dire situation has resulted in a systematic violation of their civil, economic, political, and cultural rights, undermining the very essence of the right to development, orchestrated by proxy forces created by the Government of India through various intelligence and security agencies.

Recent reports from the UNODC have exposed an alarming surge in the trafficking of narcotic substances along the India-Myanmar border, bringing with it a host of socio-economic challenges. The region is witnessing a rise in drug abuse, narco-trade, and violence, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, with the Security Forces deployed along the border having successively failed.

The deliberate influx of a large foreign population by narco-cartels has not only disrupted social cohesion but has also created an acute humanitarian crisis, leading to the displacement of indigenous communities. The government's role, including the Suspension of Operation agreement with Immigrant Kuki Armed Groups, raises concerns about the protection and promotion of human rights in the region.

In light of these urgent issues, I urge the Human Rights Council to seek a report from the Government of India:

On their role in resolving the increasing crisis of unlimited illegal immigration of Myanmar nationals and cross-border trafficking of drugs and small arms in Manipur and Northeast India.

On the measures taken to resolve massive deforestation and opium cultivation in the Hill areas of Manipur, particularly in the Chin-Kuki infiltrated areas.

To initiate a dialogue to address the root causes of the conflict, including the surge in illegal immigration, with a focus on promoting a sustainable and inclusive development agenda.

Take decisive action to ensure the protection of human rights for the indigenous people of Manipur, who are facing exploitation and violence amid the ongoing crisis.

On their purpose of initiating a Political Dialogue with Narco-Terrorist Groups who originated from the neighbouring state, Myanmar.

The Human Rights Council's intervention is crucial in restoring the fabric of human rights in Manipur and North East India. I implore you to consider these urgent matters and take decisive steps to uphold the principles of human rights.
