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RESOLUTION
on
CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination on the basis of caste is estimated to affect 260 million people worldwide, mainly in South Asia. This form of discrimination is deeply rooted in a socio-religious context and its victims face structural discrimination, marginalisation and social and economic exclusion. 'Dalits' are people who are considered of low caste in South Asia and are suffering severely from discrimination. They are considered "impure and "untouchable" by nature. Dalit women and girls are particularly vulnerable and face multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including sexual abuse.

Bearing in mind the commitment to the principles and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

The CDI:

- Strongly condemns discrimination based on caste, as a violation of human rights and international law;
- Urges caste-affected states to adopt and implement legislation to prevent caste-based discrimination;
- Calls on the international community to promote the draft UN Principles and Guidelines for the Effective elimination of discrimination based on Work and Descent as a guiding framework to eliminate caste discrimination, and promote their endorsement by the UN Human Rights Council;
- Urges all political actors to raise the issue of caste-based discrimination at the highest level and with affected countries;
- Emphasises that Caste-based discrimination needs to be addressed as a major structural factor underlying poverty.