

**Short note on Sakshi - EC- EIDHR Project**  
**Civil Society approach towards achieving equality and the realisation of**  
**the Rights of Scheduled Castes in India**

**Summary**

Duration of the action	24 months
Objectives of the action	<p><b>Overall Objective:</b> 1.To promote and defend the rights of schedule castes/ Dalit communities by using national and international human rights and anti-discriminatory legislations and instruments.</p> <p><b>Specific objectives:</b> 1. To capacitate and strengthen the Dalit communities in 10 States of India to access the Criminal Justice Administration system in order to reduce the practice of untouchability and to protect themselves from violation of human rights; 2. To evolve a civil society mechanism that sensitises, mirrors and informs the implementation, enforcement and monitoring bodies at State, national and UN levels; 3. To engage with the intervention mechanisms of the monitoring committees of relevant international conventions of UN, CEDAW, CRC, ICCPR</p>
Partner(s)	<p><b>State level:</b> Navasarjan Trust and Centre for Social Justice in Gujarat; Sakshi Human Rights Watch– Prajwala Sangham in Andhra Pradesh; NCDHR in Bihar; VICLAP and Development Initiatives in Orissa; Society of Depressed People for Social Justice in Rajasthan; SASY in Tamil Nadu; Dynamic Action Group in UP.</p> <p><b>National level:</b> Human Rights Law Network – A Project of Socio Legal Information Centre; National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights – A Project of SASY; National Safai Karmchari Andolan</p>
Target group(s)	1. Dalit women, men, children, HIV patients; 2. Dalit human rights organisations; 3. State and national level Legislature, Executive and Judiciary in India; 4. National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Commission for Women at national and State level and other statutory bodies at State levels; 5. United Nations. ICERD, CEDAW, CRC, ICCPR and the Special Rapporteurs of Racism, Work & Descent Based Discrimination
Final beneficiaries	Dalit/Scheduled caste communities across 10 States in India
Estimated results	1. The Dalit human rights monitoring bodies collate the information and prepare effective advocacy material. 2. Formation of 10 State level civil society Concerned Citizens Social Audit Groups (criminal justice administration system audit groups) which will come together as a national collective to sensitise and inform various review and monitoring bodies as well as the constitutional bodies – National Human Rights Commission, National Scheduled Castes Commission, National Commission on Women and National Commission for Safai Karmachari. 3. Dalit communities in the 10 States will use more effectively the various provisions in the SC/ST (PoA) Act and PCR Act. 4. Reports and interventions to the ICERD, CEDAW, CRC, ICCPR, Special Rapporteurs of Racism, Work & Descent Based Discrimination, Violence against Women.
Main activities	1. Capacity building workshops for collective of NGO partners in the 10 States; 2. Formation of 10 State level and 1 national level Concerned Citizens Social Audit Group for an effective Criminal Justice Administration system; 3. Engagement with the civil administration, police and judicial bodies; 4. Sustained interventions to the State and national level commissions (National Human Rights Commission, National Scheduled Castes Commission, National Commission on Women and National Commission for Safai Karamcharis); 5. Interventions to the various District and State level vigilance and monitoring committees set up under the SC/ST (PoA) Act and Rules on various Dalit human rights violations; 6. Preparation of reports to the monitoring committees of ICERD. ICCPR, CRC and CEDAW.

## **Description of Detailed Activities**

### **1.7.1. Capacity Building**

#### **1.7.1.1 Designing Training Modules and Production of Manuals**

There are currently no appropriate training modules to realize the capacitation objectives of the Action. Consequently these need to be developed to fulfil the need of Action on one hand and to ensure standardization of capacitation skill transfer attempted by the Action in both at the National and State levels. The Human Rights Law Network (HRLN), Centre for Social Justice and Sakshi are currently involved with human rights monitoring, advocacy and legal interventions have gained experience of preparing such modules and manuals. These partners will collectively take the responsibility to preparing the 5 different training manuals in English, centred on the following themes:

1. Rights of Dalit Women
2. Rights of Dalit Children
3. Rights of HIV/AIDS affected women and children from Dalit Community
4. Rights of manual scavengers (Safai Karmachari)
5. Rights of Scheduled Castes (Dalits)

The Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) will focus on the strategies to follow up cases, filing PILs. The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) will be responsible for the preparation of the manual on advocacy with the commissions and enforcement agencies. Sakshi – Human Rights Watch will assume the lead role on preparation of a manual on monitoring that includes fact finding, identification of gaps and implementation. The National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) and Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA) together will provide thematic inputs as required for these lead agencies to accomplish their tasks.

The Training Manual will consist the key aspects of caste based discrimination in India and other forms of discrimination existing across the world; concepts on human rights; texts of existing national and of all the anti-discriminatory policies and laws; procedures for approaching state, national and international human rights bodies, police, administration and judiciary; formats for sending appeals and complaints; addresses, telephone & fax numbers and email addresses of all the administration, police, judiciary, commissions, ministers who are connected to human rights; step by step guidelines for monitoring any human rights violations (collecting preliminary information, conducting Fact Finding Missions)-Writing Fact Finding Reports-Writing Press reports and appeals-approaching government officials, police, judiciary-approaching UN bodies.

Training modules will broadly follow: building rapport between the trainer and trainees through introductions; assessing the level of understanding of trainees on the relevant topic; inputs through reading material, presentation and lecture by the trainer; group discussions and presentations by the trainees; study and analysis of case studies; field visits to places where human rights violations took place, government administration offices, police stations and courts.

#### **1.7.1.2. Translation of Manuals into 7 Regional Languages – Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Oriya, Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati.**

There are no resource material in the regional languages. Even the available laws and policies are mostly in English and in files of the government offices. Hence, translation of training manuals into regional languages is an operational necessity of the Action in order to increase comprehension of trainees, so enabled, if training inputs and manuals are provided in their respective mother tongues. Such activists manuals will ensure that the law is simplified to an extent that it is easy to comprehend and can be used in preventing discrimination by ground level activist through the information provided.

Once HRLN, CSJ and Sakshi prepare the training manual and modules in English, concerned state partners will take the primary responsibility for translation into local language. In cases where there

are 2 or more partners operating within a State in their demarcated districts, one among them will assume the role as the lead agency but the Action will be steered collectively.

#### **1.7.1.3 Training of Trainers**

CSJ, Sakshi-Human Rights Watch and HRLN will collectively take the lead to conduct workshops for Training of Trainers (ToT). Two persons from each partner organization, 24 participants in all, are targeted to attend this ToT workshop. These participants, once completing this 3-day workshop are expected to return back to their organizations to in turn, conduct these capacitation workshops.

#### **1.7.1.4 Capacitation Workshops**

30 capacity workshops on Dalit Rights will be organised in 10 states in three phases during the two years of Action, All the partners, at both the State and National levels, will undertake such workshops after initiating a process of identifying and selection of potential Human Rights (HR) defenders either on their own or through other members of the civil society movement and NGOs. This extensive training programme will focus on monitoring, advocacy and legal remedies available in case of violation of dalit human rights. The first two workshops will for a 3-day duration and the last one of a 4-day duration and will cover monitoring of violations of atrocities on Dalits, Gender Rights, Child Rights, Rights of HIV positive people, Rights of sweepers (Safai Karamchari) and building Dalit community leadership. By designing a 3-phase workshop of a cumulative 10-day duration an extensive and in-depth training on the subject is offered to participants.

*Scheduled castes and HIV AIDS:* It is increasingly being nationally and internationally recognised there is a significant risk and vulnerability to HIV AIDS amongst scheduled castes for a number of reasons including high levels physical and sexual exploitation, rape and human rights violations against scheduled castes/Dalits, high levels of poverty amongst scheduled castes, low levels of awareness about HIV AIDS. Christian Aid advocates the viewpoint that development and human rights programs are a central strategy to confronting HIV in developing countries. The European Commission, ECHO<sup>12</sup> and DFID also advocate for the greater inclusion and mainstreaming of HIV AIDS awareness in development, relief and rehabilitation programme. Christian Aid is committed to mainstreaming HIV AIDS awareness in its development, human rights and humanitarian assistance programmes across Asia. Christian Aid and its local implementing partners believe that a key strategy to keep prevalence rates of HIV AIDS from increasing significantly amongst scheduled castes in India is effective prevention and awareness in vulnerable communities.

#### **1.7.1.5 Legal Aid and Training of Para-Legals**

The Action aims to train at least, 250 Human Rights (HR) Defenders, half of them women, with 50% specialized for monitoring, 25% for advocacy, 25% for legal intervention. This cadre of HR Defenders will represent selection from the 10 states the Action is proposed. Post training, they will monitor the cases of Dalit human rights violations in 60 districts and 10 major states in the country. They will be attached to various Dalit organisations and civil society organisations in their respective districts or state. Where cases of Dalit human rights violation is come across, they will help file complaints and document the cases of Dalit human rights violation. They will also be a part of the delegation of the civil society organisations to district administration, the police and judicial officials in the respective districts. They will also monitor the media and maintain a database; share this information with the state and national level coordinating organisations and help in preparation of reports and documents. They will also facilitate the visit of Concerned Citizens Social Audit Groups (CAGs) and media persons to their districts and state. Capacitation workshop and manuals are designed to demystify law and aid better comprehension through the delivery accent being placed on the mother tongue. Training guidebooks and operational manuals are to be designed to provide in-depth rights based perspective on the issue that will simplify the understanding of the law. Posters will complement the handbook and aid higher comprehension among the unlettered where the visual medium can complement the discussion tool.

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<sup>1</sup> ECHO, A Review of DG ECHO's approach to HIV AIDS, 2004

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It is imperative to capacitate and strengthen Dalit communities in the 10 State to access the criminal justice administration system to reduce the practice of untouchability and to protect themselves from the violation of their human rights as enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

### **1.7.2. Citizens Audit Groups**

#### **Formation of 10 State and 1 National level Concerned Citizens Social Audit Groups (CAGs)**

The Government, law enforcement agencies, judiciary etc are largely composed of dominant caste members who are by and large not adequately sensitive to issues of the caste-based discrimination, untouchability practices and atrocities that are perpetrated against Dalits. Responding to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Sakshi-Human Rights Watch on a case of Dalit Atrocity, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh recently expressed concern over the gross negligence of the police and the governmental machinery. According to another study, government officials, the police and the executive, either wittingly or unwittingly were responsible for the non-implementation of laws that exist to protect rights of Dalits. It is not surprising then that the system ends up failing time and again just because of apathy, negligence and insensitivity of these officials.

Within this context, the over-arching goal of the overall Action is to increase the accountability of the State to uphold human rights of the Dalit community within the country. As a strategy, 10 State and 1 National CAGs - each comprising of a membership base that includes at least 10 prominent citizens drawn from non-Dalit communities. Each of the state level partners will form their respective CAGs through facilitation and support from the National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR). At national level NCDHR and the Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA), collectively will take the responsibility for forming the CAG at the national levels.

The institution of Citizen Audit Group (CAG) is a innovative initiative proposed to establish civil society mechanisms to hold the state accountable for the rights of its own marginalized citizen's viz. the Dalits. The process adopted is designed to strengthen the grassroots on-going programmes of the respective partners involved in this Action. The CAGs will carry out social audit exercises by visiting places of alleged atrocities and carry out fact-finding (FF) exercises. As a result of data generated by these FF exercises, supplemented by media reports and official statistics available with the various Government agencies, the CAGs will publish various reports. Each State level CAG will publish at least one audit report during the project time which is expected to be the first of its kind "Citizen Audit Report" on caste based discrimination in the country. The partners will organise one Dalit Social Audit Forum in their respective states wherein CAGs will present their social audit report. The national CAG will in a similar process publish a national level social audit report by collating the states' social audit reports and also covering wider issues of Dalits at the national level. A Dalit Social Audit Forum will be organized wherein such reports will be released.

These reports and similar documents in turn will be used as advocacy tools by the Action in holding the state, administration, police and judiciary accountable to protecting the rights of the dalits and curtailing, if not eliminating caste based discrimination in the country. **Formation of CAGs:** The process of capacity strengthening of Dalit community may not be adequate in themselves to ensure equal opportunity and justice in the absence of the participation by the larger civil society groups. That is why it becomes important to form the Concerned Citizens Audit Groups at state and national level. The idea is to evolve a civil society mechanism that sensitises, informs and reflects the implementation, enforcement and monitoring bodies (State, National and UN) on Dalit human rights. This exercise will involve field visits for collection of data and evidences, data analysis, report writing and dissemination of information at various levels.

#### **1.7.2.1 Preparation workshop for the formation of CAG**

A one-day preliminary meeting will be organised at each state and national levels to explain the rationale of CAGs and to involve Dalit organizations and activists in the process. At least 30 Dalit rights activists/NGO workers from each state and another 15 persons from various walks of life such as part of lawyers, media persons, retired bureaucrats, retired judges etc., will be invited to participate in these meetings where the raison d'être of CAG is collectively defined as part of a process designed to own this initiative. The management structure will maintain parity on the basis of districts while at the national level, parity will be maintained on the basis of equal state representations.

### **1.7.2.2 Preliminary Orientation Workshop for members**

A one-day preparatory workshop will be organised, both at the state and national level, to be attended by the selected members of CAGs. The agenda includes finalization of locations that requires visiting for monitoring and fact-finding missions, prioritisation of issues and the timelines, in addition to finalizing reporting formats. The respective partner of the Action or the lead partner in the state or national levels will take the responsibility for coordinating the logistics and documentation of the meeting.

### **1.7.2.3 Annual Meeting**

#### **1.7.2.4 Fact Finding Missions**

A team with at least a minimum of 3 members will visit selected locations in the districts/states to collect information on the status of human rights violations against Dalits, the effectiveness of laws/acts, the role of police and administration. They will also interact with prominent members of the civil society, police and government officials. The respective partner of the Action or the lead partner will take the responsibility for coordinating the logistics and documentation of the meeting.

#### **1.7.2.5. Conference with Dalit Victims of Atrocities**

10 state level and one national public event will be organised with selected victims during the period of the Action. The victims during this event will get an opportunity to share their experiences with the CAG members. The respective partner organizations in the state or national level will facilitate the process with documentation and provision of expertise on laws and administrative procedures. The mass media will be extensively utilised to disseminate the Social audit reports across the country. Particularly, the officials of administration, police and judiciary will be targeted to receive the copies of audit report and the proceedings of the Dalit Social Audit Forums.

#### **1.7.2.6 Data analysis, Report writing and Publication of Annual Social Audit Report**

The CAGs, both at state and National, will collate, analyse the data collected from 60 districts during the field visits of CAG members and the experiences shared by the victims during the conference with Dalit victims and accordingly prepare the Annual Social Audit Report. The report will focus on the status of Dalit human rights violations, role played by the police, administration and judiciary in implementing polices and laws; recommendations to the police and administration and to the legislative. Respective partner organizations will facilitate the process with documentation and expertise on laws and administrative procedures.

### **1.7.3 Monitoring Cases of Atrocities, Discrimination and Engagement with Administrative, Law Enforcement and Judicial Bodies**

A pre-condition to effectively engage the administration, judiciary and law enforcement agencies in order to make them more responsive and sympathetic towards Dalit Human Rights issues would be monitored and documented cases of atrocities and discrimination. The primary objective of the monitoring of key human rights violations against dalits is to follow and assist the victims in accessing justice. Given the rate in which the numbers of atrocities are taking place against Dalits, it will be difficult to monitor all the cases of atrocities. As highlighted by the study conducted by The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in 2004, entitled “Report on Prevention of Atrocities Against SCs & STs” by KB Saxena, a total of 357,945 crimes were committed against Dalits in the last two decades. In the year 2000 alone, atrocities and violence against dalits includes 486 cases of murder, 3,298 of grievous harm, 260 of arson, 103 cases of rape against dalit women, and 18,664 other offences were reported across the country. These official statistics from National Human Rights Commission of India just reveals just the tip of the iceberg. Many Dalit Human Rights organisations also of the opinion that a significant majority of the cases are not reported at all or if otherwise, either thoroughly diluted at the village levels. Accordingly, it is not possible to cover all cases of atrocities. Given the ground realities, the Action proposes aims to take up at least 585 cases (an average of 50 cases in each state) where serious violations of dalit rights had been alleged on the basis of Fact Finding visits were carried out to verify the reports and to assist the victims in accessing criminal justice system. In the process all these cases will be thoroughly documented in order to bring out a citizen audit reports in each state. In the process it is envisaged that about 289 (50%) of cases will be given legal assistance and close monitoring at judicial levels. Given the history of prolonged delays in delivery of justice, it is envisaged that all these cases will be in the judicial process and with a low probability of reaching the stage of final judgement from the courts during the duration of the Action.

**Towards this end, the Action will pursue the following activities:**

#### **1.7.3.1. Documentation**

All major cases of rights violation and atrocities against Dalits particularly against women, children and persons with disabilities will be documented by the partners in their respective project area. Partners at the state level will network with other civil societies in collective data gathering. The document will give details of number and names of victims of rights violation, response of government officials, whether victims got justice, obstacles in getting justice etc., Such documentation is critical for engagement with the police, civil administration and for monitoring the trial court process.

#### **1.7.3.2 Engagement with Administration, Judiciary and Law Enforcement Agencies**

#### **1.7.3.3 Monitoring of Special Courts and Preparation of Status Report**

Out of the 585 Fact Finding Mission on human rights violations, 50 % ie., 285 cases will be selected for approaching the courts for accessing criminal justice. Human Rights Law Network will guide the state level partners and 80 Dalit advocates to select the cases, collect evidence, prepare affidavits and file them in courts. The senior lawyers who train the Dalit advocates will guide them in this process as part of training. This is essential to address the lowest rate of cases approaching courts and lowest rate of convictions in cases of human rights violations against Dalits.

#### **1.7.3.4 Monitoring of Dalit Child Rights to Education**

There is no constitutional body to protect the rights of children. Hence, the need to monitor child rights in pre-schools and schools. State partners will monitor implementation of the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan<sup>3</sup>, mid-day meal programme and scholarship programme to Dalit children in schools and children of persons engaged in unclean occupation. The Safai Karamchhari Andolan (SKA) will monitor the state 'special provisions of scholarship for the children of persons engaged in unclean occupations in certain districts where they are working. Wherever possible, partners in the state will network with Child Rights Advocacy Forums to monitoring the Dalit child rights and also will visit 10 government schools and hostels and will assess whether the school and hostel environment is Dalit child-friendly and whether it can ensure rights of the child. Any gaps come across will be documented and on the basis of which, the state partners will engage with concerned government officials to ensure Dalit children rights are protected.

#### **1.7.3.5 Monitoring of Employment of Manual Scavengers Act and Violence Against Dalit Women**

Safai Karamchhari Andolan (SKA), Navsarjan and the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) will provide inputs and facilitate state partners to monitor the implementation of The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of dry latrines (Prohibition) Act -1993. A minimum of 10 complaints from each state will be monitored.

#### **1.7.3.6. Training to Advocates**

To fill the gap of experienced and skilled Dalit advocates, 80 Dalit advocates will be selected and will be provided training during the period. Each state will select 8 Dalit advocates. Human Rights Law Network which is taking responsibility for training manual and module preparation will organise resource persons for the training of Dalit advocates. The training includes both classroom training and fieldwork. Fifty percent of human rights violations, which will be selected for Fact Finding Missions and follow-up, will be taken up by the trainee Dalit advocates and will pursue them in the courts. The resource persons will guide the trainee lawyers, in collecting evidence, preparing affidavits and arguing in the courts. Provision has been made in the project for accessing criminal justice for 285 cases.

#### **1.7.3.7. Public Interest Litigations**

Six cases will be selected for filing Public Interest litigations in High Court and Supreme Court during the project period. The cases will cover the policy and its implementation which cover the rights of women, children, HIV/AIDS victims. HRLN will guide the state level partners in identifying cases, collecting material. Filing of PIL will be lead by the HRLN.

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<sup>3</sup> A scheme of the Central Government

#### **1.7.4. Sustained Advocacy Interventions with the State/National Commissions, Statutory Commissions (SC/ST Commissions, Human Rights Commissions, Women's Commissions, Safai Karamchari Commissions etc.,**

There are Scheduled Castes Commission, Human Rights Commission, and Women's Commission, both at state and national level and also National Safai Karmachari Commission to ensure the rights of the Dalits. Despite this, the latter are not adequately responding to the Dalit human rights violations and there are no mechanisms to follow up compliance procedures. To remedy the situation, the Action proposes the following activities:

##### **1.7.4.1 Drafting & Filing complaints**

Assistance will be provided through the Action to Dalit victims of human rights violations and atrocities and who need to approach SC/ST Commission or Safai Karmachari Commission or Women's Commission. Partners will provide legal expertise with the assistance of advocates to at least 289 cases of Dalit victims in respect to drafting and filing of complaints to the commissions. All complaints will be followed-up. Since Dalit victims are mostly illiterate and not aware of the commission's functions and jurisdiction, mere drafting and filing complaints is merely the initial step in helping them accessing justice.

##### **1.7.4.2. Advocacy with commissions and legislative members at state level**

The action will target members of parliaments and Cabinet and state ministers at national level. Periodical meetings coinciding with parliament sessions and parliament committee meetings will be organised to meet them personally. A national advocacy group consisting of representatives from all the states will meet the members of parliament and ministers with advocacy material. Advocacy material will be delivered to all the members of parliament and ministers. NCDHR in collaborations with other national partners will take the responsibility of production of such materials at the national level, similarly respective state partners will take the responsibility at their respective state.

**1.7.4.3. Interventions to state and national statutory bodies:** On the basis of the reports prepared the Action proposes to initiating a process of sustained interventions with the State and National level Statutory bodies like The National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Safai Karamchari etc and their counterparts at the State level. In order to facilitate such kind of interventions it is also essential to prepare handbooks on the norms and guidelines to gain access to statutory bodies. Drafting & filing of complaints the required follow up becomes the natural corollary in this process. Strengthening the spirit and voices of the affected people is another important task that needs to be addressed on a priority basis. Advocacy combined with targeted lobby and media interventions would have their role to not only operationalized the initiatives of the Governments at the Central and State level, but at the same time it will help in improving the accountability of the State in the event of non-compliance, non-implementation and denial of justice.

#### **1.7.5 Advocacy with the Constitution of District/State/National Level Monitoring Vigilance Committee**

##### **1.7.5.1 Preparation of Advocacy Material**

News, case studies and information on human rights violations, the interventions made by the project, responses of the state machinery, success stories and interviews of victims will be collected for the newsletter from media reports, field visits, fact-finding reports. The collected material will be edited and used for the newsletter. Newsletter in English will be brought out on quarterly basis.

##### **1.7.5.2 Orientation to Monitoring and Vigilance Committees**

As most vigilance committee members are appointed on political party affiliations, they are not usually committed and motivated to address the cases of human rights violations against Dalits even though it is their fundamental responsibility as a member of these committees. Partners of the Action will organise one-day workshops for at least 20 members of these District Monitoring and Vigilance Committees at state level. The orientation will cover the nature of human rights violations, causes, what needs to be done to protect Dalit human rights, duties of Vigilance and monitoring committee members.

### **1.7.5.3 Advocacy with District/State/National Level Monitoring Vigilance Committee**

#### **1.7.6 Preparation of formal and shadow reports**

##### **1.7.6.1 Preparation of reports and advocacy to the monitoring committees of ICERD, CRC, ICCPR & CEDAW.**

**Interventions and advocacy at UN bodies:** Since India is a signatory of various International Treaties that guarantees compliance to certain International Standards and Mechanisms of Human Rights, it is also important to raise visibility and concerns related to human rights violations on Dalits in UN and other Global Forum. For this purpose the preparation and submission of Country Report in the Monitoring Bodies like CERD, CEDAW, CRC and others, as part of the periodic review has become a significant necessity. The involvement of Global Networks like International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) an associate of this Action and others like them for an effective intervention on Dalit rights and concerns needs to be taken up on a priority basis for the adoption of the Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination Based on Work and Descent (hereinafter referred to as “principles and guidelines”) at the UN.

The coming together of several platform organizations under the Action strengthens the coordination and flows between national partners and the international associate IDSN and consequently enhances collective input and follow-up to the UN process which in turn will be directed at contributing to promoting and finally securing the adoption of the UN Principles & Guidelines to Eliminate Caste based discrimination. The UN Principles & Guidelines constitutes a ‘strong means’ to encourage specific anti-discrimination legislation and relevant policy measures to governments and other institutions in caste-affected countries. It addresses questions of access to the full range of rights for affected communities and protection from human rights. Interventions and submission of reports are targeted within this arrangement with the Human Rights Council, CERD, Special Rapporteurs including the Special Rapporteurs on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Right to Housing, Right to Education, descent based discrimination and the monitoring committees of CEDAW, CRC etc. the following action is proposed

- i. National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) with the support of partners in action prepares six shadow reports during the project period to be submitted to ICERD, CRC, ICCPR, ICSECR & CEDAW and special Rapporteurs work and descent based discrimination.
- ii. Two national consultations will be organized to present shadow report to Indian civil society to get their inputs and one national consultation on the rights of Safai Karmachari.
- iii. NCDHR and other partners in Action will use these shadow reports for advocacy within India and along with IDSN at the UN level.
- iv. Partners in Action will attend the meetings of UN monitoring mechanisms and take up advocacy based on the shadow report.