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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences

UN Human Rights Council
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Mr President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery highlighting states' obligations related to persons belonging to ethnic, religious, and linguistic minority communities.

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's approach and the focus given to the lived experiences of minorities including those discriminated against on the basis of work and descent, including caste-based discrimination and descent-based slavery. Their experiences are compounded by intersectional factors such as class, gender, and religion.

Dehumanizing systems, and practices such as caste-based discrimination which is formalized and perpetuated through state-sponsored discrimination has no place in a State that respects human rights. States need to jointly challenge the root causes of structural inequalities and discrimination and to prioritise gender and racial justice issues particularly of those communities faced with historical and systemic oppression, exclusion, marginalisation, and violence.

Mr President, we call on states to ensure economic, social, and labour protection of descent-based communities, take time-bound disciplinary actions to tackle caste-bias of government officials and adequately resource protective measures, in consultation with women to lessen their susceptibility to abuse, exploitation, and violence.

I thank you.