



UNITED NATIONS
**HUMAN RIGHTS
TREATY BODIES**

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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19 January 2026

Excellency,

I write to you in relation to [letter of 12 May 2025](#) by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (“the Committee”) regarding to the situation of the tribal and forest-dwelling Indigenous Peoples in India.

The Committee thanks the State Party for its response to the letter and for the information provided. The Committee notes the information on the legislative framework concerning the mandate of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and that the State Governments are responsible for the routine management of field-level operations with the support of NTCA. It also takes note of the information that, in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, core tiger habitat areas of national parks have to be protected for the purpose of tiger conservation and that village relocation is mandated on mutually agreed terms and following obtaining the informed consent of village councils. The Committee notes the information that the NTCA issued guidelines for procedure of village relocation on voluntary basis for the implementation of State Governments and their authorities.

The Committee takes note of the information that, as of August 2025, there were around 6400 families and 590 villages inside the core area of the tiger reserves. It further notes the information that the NTCA order, issued on 19 June 2024, prioritizes voluntary village relocation after obtaining the informed consent of the concerned village councils, in accordance with the legislative framework and the guidelines, and requests State Governments to inform the NTCA about their plans.

Notwithstanding the information provided, the Committee regrets the lack of detailed information regarding the allegations and concerns set out in the Committee’s letter of 12 May 2025, particularly regarding the lack of effective and meaningful consultation with the tribal and forest-dwelling Indigenous Peoples to obtain their free, prior and informed consent. It also regrets the lack of information on allegations and concerns regarding the absence of impact assessment studies in relation to the implementation of the order and its impacts on the tribal and forest-dwelling Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the lack of information concerning the allegations and concerns on the risk of displacement and eviction of the tribal and forest-dwelling Indigenous Peoples without providing adequate alternative housing and compensation to the impacted communities.

H.E. Mr. Arindam Bagchi
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In this context, the Committee calls upon the State Party to adopt all necessary measures to protect the rights of tribal and forest-dwelling Indigenous Peoples in India. In this regard and in accordance with Article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 66 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee requests that the State Party provide detailed and updated information on the situation of the tribal and forest-dwelling Indigenous Peoples in light of the implementation of the NTCA order, issued on 19 June 2024, during presentation of the State Party's combined twentieth and twenty-first periodic reports. In particular, the Committee requests the State Party to provide updated and detailed information on (a) measures to ensure effective and meaningful consultation with tribal and forest-dwelling Indigenous Peoples on any projects or legislative or administrative measures, particularly the implementation of the NTCA order issued on 19 June 2024, that may affect their land, territories and resources, with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent; (b) the conduct of impact assessment studies regarding the implementation of the NTCA order issued on 19 June 2024 on the rights of the tribal and forest-dwelling Indigenous Peoples; and (c) measures to ensure that evictions are carried out in accordance with international human rights standards, that families and individuals affected are provided with adequate alternative housing and compensation and that effective remedies are in all cases available to those affected in cases of eviction.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of India with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Balcerzak". A short horizontal line is drawn to the right of the signature.

Michal Balcerzak
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination