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COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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8 December 2023

Excellency,

I write to you in relation to the Committee's letter of 29 April 2022 regarding the information received under its early warning and urgent action procedure, related to the situation of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

In the abovementioned letter, the Committee expressed concern about the allegations received regarding the development of two mega projects in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands – the “Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island” and the “Sustainable Development of Little Andaman Island Vision Document” – which reportedly would have a harmful impact on five PVTGs that inhabit Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Shompens and Sentinelese). It was further alleged that these projects violate the existing laws and policies of the State party that protect PVTGs and their habitats.

The Committee notes with regret that the State party has not responded to the abovementioned letter and remains concerned that the allegations received may amount to a breach of the principle of non-discrimination and the State party's obligation to protect the rights of particularly vulnerable individuals and communities in accordance with the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (ICERD), such as the PVTGs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

In this context, the Committee reiterates its call on the State party to adopt all necessary measures to address the allegations mentioned above and to protect the rights of the PVTGs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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.

Yours sincerely,



Verene Shepherd
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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