Thank you Mr. President,

Although the Human Rights Council acknowledged that “many women and girls... are disproportionately affected by aggravated forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance” in its 35th session, we are concerned that we have seen little action to gather information on the affected groups. For example, very little data exists regarding Dalit and Buraku women and girls, groups that have been traditionally discriminated against. Buraku women face stigma when marrying, have little access to employment and encounter healthcare issues. Dalit women are at a higher risk of sexual violence, trafficking and forced marriage but have little legal recourse as they also experience serious difficulties in accessing the formal justice systems and are excluded from political processes.

Discrimination is a truly crosscutting issue and we are deeply concerned by the fact that there has been a significant lack of effort to address intersectional discrimination in a holistic, comprehensive way. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has repeatedly inquired about disaggregated data and stressed its crucial role in combating discrimination. All governments should account for the situation of women and girls of marginalised communities in all measures taken to address discrimination and explicitly create provisions tailored to ensure their rights whenever possible. The OHCHR can strengthen its role in assisting States in this regard. We would like to ask a question to the panellists: how do you propose that the OHCHR increase coordination of its efforts to ensure a more complete approach to intersectional discrimination?

Thank you Mr. President.

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1 A/HRC/35/10 UNGA
4 See A/HRC/26/38/Add.1, para. 28.
5 See A/HRC/29/40, para. 23.
6 Minority Rights Group International, written contribution to the general discussion on access to justice at the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2013).
8 http://idsn.org/uploads/media/UN_Principles_And_Guidelines_-_IDSN.pdf