

National Consultation on Adivasis for VNR 2025 concludes

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Wednesday, 19 February 2025 | PNS | Ranchi

The National Consultation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on Adivasis, under the aegis of NITI Aayog, concluded here on Tuesday. The consultation was organized by Partnering Hope Into Action Foundation (PHIA) and the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) in collaboration with the United Nations Tribal Task Team.

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) is a country-led process that evaluates and reports on national progress in implementing the SDGs. The consultation brought together around 100 participants from the Civil society organizations (CSOs), academic and research institutions, Adivasi men and women leaders, scholars and subject matter experts, and policymakers to deliberate on Adivasi-specific issues and formulate recommendations that will be submitted as a report to NITI Aayog for integration into India's VNR- 2025 submission.

The reviews will be presented at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), to be held in July 2025. This consultation is part of a broader initiative led by NITI Aayog to facilitate meaningful engagement with various Leave No One Behind (LNOB) groups, ensuring inclusive and representative policy discussions.

During the consultation, stakeholders engaged in panel discussions on key themes concerning Adivasis, including: Basic Amenities/ Services- Education, Health, Housing & Infrastructure; Natural Resources Rights- Forest Rights, Human-Animal Conflict, Stewardship; Livelihoods– Dignity, Respectful Livelihoods, Migration, Displacement; Culture & Traditional Knowledge– Respect, Building Connections, Recognition; Policy and Governance –Voice & Agency Schedule, V & VI implementation, Policy, Data & Institutional Framework.

The event also witnessed participation of the representatives from the UNDP, UNICEF and NITI Aayog and eminent leaders in the tribal domain. Isabelle Tschan of UNDP thanked the organizers of the national consultation and the collaborators for this important consultation.

Rajib Kumar Sen, Senior Advisor of NITI Aayog, highlighted the VNR as “a crucial process in which the progress in SDG indicators are assessed which provides pertinent inputs on how actionable areas can be derived”.

Speaking at the event, Johnson Topno, Executive Director of PHIA Foundation, stated that the results of the national consultation could indeed be momentous in writing the story of tribal development. Johnson thanked all civil society organizations (CSOs), academic and research institutions, tribal men and women leaders, scholars and subject matter experts, and policymakers for making the culmination purposeful.

UNICEF's Dennis Christian Larsen linked the development of indigenous people with the development of children. He spoke about preserving indigenous culture and stressed on how the consultation is a robust initiative towards ensuring the progress towards myriad SDGs. Community efforts are essential to ensure that children have full rights to health, nutrition, education, and protection.

The national consultation concluded reinforcing the vision of the United Nations Tribal Working Group to incorporate tribal perspectives into the national development plan through our collective efforts, which strengthens the commitment to an inclusive and sustainable future for all.