

Human Development Organization

Thank you Chair. I am Dr. [inaudible] representing Human Development Organization Sri Lanka, as well as [inaudible]. While thanking the government for its initiation of a few good practices, I would like to bring some disparities in the development of the Hill Country Tea Plantation community in Sri Lanka. Land and housing is a very important issue the community is facing. The Plantation people are controversially facing around 67% of the population is still living in the [inaudible] rooms that were constructed during the British colonial period around 150 years ago. Also, another issue is the ownership of this land and housing. The other problem is language rights. Although the 13th amendment of the country ensures language rights, the failure to appoint adequate Tamil officers in government institutions has meant [inaudible]. Then, the Plantation's medical and health issues. Elevating the plantation's health services is an imperative step aligned with both the international and national standards. Presently, the majority of the plantation's dispensaries are overseen by the plantation companies. This system poses significant challenges to the overall health framework, recognizing the importance of access, quality, and health services for all, not only improve the lives of the plantation community, but also contribute to nation-building. Therefore, Chair, I propose that a minority rights commission be established in Sri Lanka to ensure the rights of the minority groups, ethnic, religious, and linguistic groups. Thank you.