

November 22, 2022

Brijlal Chaudhari

President, Global Home for Indigenous Peoples (GH4IP)

Statement on ELIGIBILITY

I want to share my opinion with the regards to Eligibility Criteria. Deciding on eligibility is a challenging task as there are many states does not even recognize Indigenous Peoples legally. But that should not limit their participation at the UN HRC meetings. The principle of self-determination and self-identification should be encouraged to enlarge the participation of Indigenous Peoples.

In Tharu governance system known as BARGHAR, we do have a criterion for participations. If you are Tharu, you are automatically eligible for the participation in the Tharu meetings. No matter who you are, you are invited to sit in the meeting. However, there is a limitation on what you say and when you say and that depends on the self-consciousness of the person attending the meeting.

Madam co-facilitator, I wanted to bring you attention to the current reality of the migration/ displacements and how Indigenous Peoples living in different part of the world, away from their traditional territories. We should encourage their participation as well despite where they live in the world. Does not matter where they are organized as Indigenous Peoples, we should open the floor for them and not judge them that they are not in the homeland. For instance, we have thousands of Tharu Peoples living in gulf countries and around the world. Similarly, the Voluntary fund should include them in their roster and eligible candidate of the fund.