

**Distinguished delegates,**

**I, Aadya Gaur, speak on behalf of Udisha, an Indian Civil Society Organization working for Education, Employment & sustainable Development, addressing the priority theme: "Advancing Social Development and Social Justice through Coordinated, Equitable, and Inclusive Policies."**

**Today, I bring to this Commission the voices of India's 104 million tribal women—8.6% of our population—trapped in a healthcare crisis that demands urgent, coordinated action.**

**Consider these stark disparities:**

- Infant mortality among tribal communities: **41.6 to 44 deaths per 1,000 live births**—far above the national average of 35.
- Under-5 mortality: **50+ per 1,000** versus 42 nationally.
- Only **25%** receive complete healthcare; just **37%** get post-natal care within 48 hours.
- Over **60%** suffer severe anaemia, driving pregnancy complications.

**Because,** Geographical isolation forces women to trek hours over treacherous terrain. Primary health centres suffer chronic staff shortages. Illiteracy exceeds **40%**. Poverty creates a vicious health cycle.

**Udisha calls for coordinated, equitable, inclusive solutions:**

**Firstly—culturally competent health systems** that honour tribal languages, beliefs, and traditional healers alongside evidence-based care.

**Secondly—last-mile access** through community health navigators, mobile clinics, and transport networks.

**Thirdly—strengthened workforce and data systems**, including dedicated tribal maternal mortality monitoring.

**And last but not the least—holistic investment** in education, nutrition, water, and sanitation.

**These are not isolated interventions—they form an integrated policy ecosystem advancing SDG 3, SDG 5, and SDG 10.**

**Distinguished delegates, empowering tribal women is not charity. It is social justice. It is the foundation of inclusive development. When tribal mothers survive and thrive, entire communities rise.**

**The United Nations, Member States, and partners must act now. Tribal women's health is India's moral and developmental imperative.**

**Let us build coordinated systems that leave no woman behind. Let us advance social justice through equitable, inclusive policies.**

