

Working Group on National Ratification of OP ICESCR

[insert coalition logos]

Working Group on National Ratification of OP-ICESCR

[Coalition focal point name, contact details]

Prime Minister/President [name]

[Official address]

[date] 2013

Dear President/Prime Minister,

Calling For [country] To Ratify The International Covenant On Economic, Social And Cultural Rights (ESCR)

We, the “Working Group on National Ratification of ICESCR”, a coalition of NGO from the [country] civil society, call on the [country] government to immediately ratify the **Optional Protocol to the International Covenant On Economic, Social And Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR)**. This move is consistent with the government’s prime focus to build a better economy and a people-centred economic model process as the core for development, through the [name the policy if relevant] . This must be consistent to the globally accepted human rights norms as stated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (ICESCR). We are pleased that the government of (country) has ratified and has submitted reports (if relevant). The Optional Protocol strengthens the mechanism of ESCR even more and enables more peoples to participate in the in the development of the country in a more meaningful way.

2. We the undersigned NGOs urge [country] to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and fully implement them without delay.

3.. At a time when many countries are under the shadow of financial instability, the global struggle for basic human dignity has never been more visible and the protection of economic, social and cultural rights is now more crucial than ever. We believe that human rights must be central to efforts to reduce poverty. By ratifying the covenant and the optional protocol, the government will show that it is willing to protect and uphold the rights of people living in poverty. Forced evictions, stigmatization towards water, land grabbing, unequal access to education, workers rights violation, human trafficking, privatization of health services and curbing of freedom of religion are among the Economic Social and Cultural Rights violations faced by many in [country] and the government has shown commitment on working on these issues.

4. We call on your good self as the Prime Minister/President to show leadership in this issue which needs urgent attention by the government of [country]. By becoming a party to the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR, the [country] Government will demonstrate its commitment to protecting human rights and eradicating poverty at home and internationally. The ratification of the Covenant and Optional Protocol will be crucial as it is a concrete step to rectify the gaps for the protection of victims of violations of economic, social and cultural rights. We hope that you will act to strengthen the recognition and implementation of economic, social and cultural rights and access to justice for all. Currently, there are a total of 160 nations which have become parties to the ICESCR. As of 5 February 2013, the Optional Protocol has been signed by 42 states and ratified by 10 of them and hence has entered into force. It is only right that [country] progress and ratify the OP ICESCR together with the other UN conventions and treaties without any reservations.

4. We, the Working Group on National Ratification of ICESCR, as signed below, are ready to work together with the government including all relevant Ministries to ensure speedy ratification. We hope [country] will put its signature and ratify the ICESCR no later than [date] 2012.

5. We plan to hand over this letter calling on your Excellency to ratify the ICESCR. We request for a meeting:

Working Group on National Ratification of OP ICESCR [insert coalition logos]

Date: [date] 2013, [day]

Time: [time]

Place: [Prime ministers/Presidents Office]

6. We hope you will graciously meet us to accept our letter. We thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to hearing from you

On behalf of the Working Group,

[Name and Title of Chairperson of Working Group or Coalition]

[List of Working Group members]

[List of endorsing organizations]

1.

2.

3.

4.