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**Human Rights Council****Forty-eighth session**

13 September–11 October 2021

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council  
on 8 October 2021****48/10. The right to development***The Human Rights Council,**Recalling* the Charter of the United Nations and the core human rights instruments,*Reaffirming* the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,*Reiterating* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which reaffirms the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights,*Reaffirming* Human Rights Council resolutions 4/4 of 30 March 2007 and 9/3 of 17 September 2008, recalling all Commission on Human Rights resolutions on the right to development, including resolutions 1998/72 of 22 April 1998 and 2004/7 of 13 April 2004 in support of the implementation of the right to development, and recalling also all Council and General Assembly resolutions on the right to development, the most recent being Council resolution 45/6 of 6 October 2020 and Assembly resolution 75/182 of 16 December 2020,*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020, on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), 74/274 of 20 April 2020, on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19, 74/306 of 11 September 2020, on a comprehensive and coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and 74/307 of 11 September 2020, on a united response against global health threats: combating COVID-19,*Recalling also* Human Rights Council resolution 46/14 of 23 March 2021, on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in which the Council expressed deep concern about the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights around the world, and emphasized the importance of human rights in shaping the response to the pandemic,*Recalling further* the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019,<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 73/291.



*Welcoming* the final outcome document adopted at the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku on 25 and 26 October 2019, at which the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries stressed the need to operationalize the right to development as a priority, including through the elaboration of a legally binding instrument on the right to development by the relevant machinery, taking into account the recommendations of relevant initiatives,

*Emphasizing* the urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone,

*Emphasizing also* that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

*Emphasizing further* that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, can only be enjoyed in an inclusive and collaborative framework at the international, regional and national levels, and in this regard underlining the importance of engaging the United Nations system, including United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, relevant international organizations, including financial and trade organizations, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, development practitioners, human rights experts and the public at all levels, in discussions on the right to development,

*Noting* the commitment declared by a number of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and other international organizations to make the right to development a reality for all, and in this regard urging all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations to mainstream the right to development into their objectives, policies, programmes and operational activities, and into development and development-related processes, including in the preparation and outcome of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

*Acknowledging* the need for a comprehensive approach to the promotion and protection of all human rights and the importance of integrating a right to development perspective in a more systemic way into all relevant aspects of the work of the United Nations system, including the treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms,

*Stressing* that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social issues and threats to international peace and security must be shared among the States Members of the United Nations and should be exercised multilaterally, and that in this regard the central role must be played by the United Nations as the most universal and representative international organization in the world,

*Stressing also* the importance of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its means of implementation, and emphasizing that the 2030 Agenda is informed by the Declaration on the Right to Development and that the right to development is vital for the full realization of the 2030 Agenda, and should be central to its implementation,

*Recognizing* that achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change-related goals, requires effective policy coherence and coordination,

*Recognizing also* that hunger and extreme poverty, in all their forms and dimensions, are the greatest global challenges and require the collective commitment of the international community for their eradication, and therefore calling upon the international community to contribute to the achievement of that goal, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing further* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is one of the critical elements in the promotion and realization of the right to development and is one of the greatest global challenges and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, which requires a multifaceted and integrated approach, and reiterating the need to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

*Recognizing* that inequality is a major obstacle to the realization of the right to development within and across countries,

*Expressing concern* about the increasing number of cases of human rights violations and abuses by transnational corporations and other business enterprises, underlining the need to ensure that appropriate protection, justice and remedies are provided to victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from the activities of those entities, and underscoring the fact that they must contribute to the means of implementation for the realization of the right to development,

*Underlining* that the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will require the strengthening of a new, more equitable social and international order in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized, as envisioned in article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Stressing* the primary responsibility of States for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development,

*Recognizing* that Member States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating lasting obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation, in particular global partnerships for development, for the realization of the right to development, and that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires, inter alia, effective development policies at the national level, equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

*Urging* all Member States to engage constructively in discussions for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development with a view to overcoming the existing political impasse within the Working Group on the Right to Development in order that it may fulfil, in a timely manner, its mandate as established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/72 and the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4,

*Stressing* that, in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly decided that the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights shall be, among others, to promote and protect the realization of the right to development, and to enhance support from relevant bodies of the United Nations system for that purpose, and in its annual resolution on the right to development, the Assembly reaffirms its request to the High Commissioner, in mainstreaming the right to development, to effectively undertake activities aimed at strengthening the global partnership for development among Member States, development agencies and international development, financial and trade institutions,

*Recognizing* the need for independent perspectives and expert advice to strengthen the work of the Working Group and to support the efforts of Member States to realize fully the right to development, including in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling* the report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development,<sup>2</sup> submitted to the Human Rights Council at its forty-fifth session pursuant to Council resolution 39/9 of 27 September 2018,

*Welcoming* the discussions held by the Working Group at its twenty-first session on how a legally binding instrument would contribute to making the right to development a reality for all by creating conducive national and international conditions for its realization and by halting all measures that might have a negative impact on the right to development, in accordance with the Charter, the Declaration on the Right to Development and other relevant international instruments and documents,

*Welcoming also* the commencement of the elaboration of a draft convention on the right to development on the basis of the draft submitted by the Chair-Rapporteur of the

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<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/45/40.

Working Group, as mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 39/9, through a collaborative process of engagement, at the twenty-first session of the Working Group,

*Reaffirming* Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, on institution-building of the Council, and 5/2, on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedure Mandate Holders of the Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge the duties of the mandate in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

1. *Reaffirms* its commitment to effectively integrate the right to development into its work and that of its mechanisms in a systematic and transparent manner;

2. *Acknowledges* the need to strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level while urging all Member States to undertake at the national level the necessary policy formulation and to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is a complement to North-South cooperation, and hence should not result in the reduction of North-South cooperation or hamper progress in fulfilling existing official development assistance commitments, and encourages Member States and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate the right to development into the design, financing and implementation of cooperation processes;

4. *Calls upon* States and other relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures to guarantee fair, transparent, equitable, efficient, universal and timely access to and the distribution of safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, and to enable international cooperation;

5. *Welcomes* the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development;<sup>3</sup>

6. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to submit to the Human Rights Council an annual report on the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including on inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system that has direct relevance to the realization of the right to development, and to provide an analysis, taking into account existing challenges to the realization of the right to development, and to make recommendations on how to overcome them and concrete proposals for supporting the Working Group on the Right to Development in fulfilling its mandate;

7. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to take concrete measures in fulfilment of her mandated responsibility, and to enhance support for the promotion and protection of the realization of the right to development, taking as reference the Declaration on the Right to Development, all resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the right to development and agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group;

8. *Urges* the Office of the High Commissioner, in the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, to ensure balanced, efficient and visible allocation of both financial and human resources to the existing mechanisms within the Office, including the Expert Mechanism of the Right to Development and the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, for the realization of the right to development, also to ensure the visibility of the right to development by identifying and implementing tangible projects dedicated to the right to development, in collaboration with the Expert Mechanism and the Special Rapporteur, and to provide regular updates to the Human Rights Council in this regard;

9. *Reiterates* the importance of the core principles contained in the conclusions of the Working Group at its third session<sup>4</sup> that are congruent with the purpose of international human rights instruments, such as equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation and international cooperation, as critical to mainstreaming the right to development at the

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<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/48/26.

<sup>4</sup> See E/CN.4/2002/28/Rev.1.

national and international levels, and underlines the importance of the principles of equity and transparency;

10. *Stresses* the importance of the realization of the mandate of the Working Group, and recognizes the need for renewed efforts with a view to overcoming the existing political impasse within the Working Group so that it may fulfil in a timely manner its mandate as established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/72 and the Human Rights Council in its resolutions 4/4 and 39/9;

11. *Also stresses* the importance of constructive engagement at the twenty-second session of the Working Group, which will continue its consideration of the draft convention on the right to development submitted by the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group, and requests the Chair-Rapporteur to submit a revised draft convention to the Working Group at its twenty-third session;

12. *Requests* the High Commissioner to engage experts for their continued provision of necessary advice, inputs and expertise to the Chair-Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate and the preparation of the revised draft of the convention on the right to development, to facilitate the participation of the experts in the twenty-third session of the Working Group, and to provide advice with a view to contributing to discussions on the elaboration of a draft convention on the right to development, as part of the implementation and realization of the right to development;

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development,<sup>5</sup> and requests the Expert Mechanism to continue to pay particular attention to the international dimension of the right to development, and how this aspect will make the practical implementation of the right to development effective at the international, regional and national levels;

14. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development,<sup>6</sup> and requests him to continue to pay particular attention to the implementation of the right to development, which facilitates the full enjoyment of human rights, in accordance with his mandate;

15. *Also welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, in particular the guidelines and recommendations on the practical implementation of the right to development submitted to the Human Rights Council at its forty-second session;<sup>7</sup>

16. *Reiterates* its decision to continue to act to ensure that its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard leads to raising the right to development, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to the same level and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

17. *Stresses* that the Working Group will take into account all resolutions on the right to development, in particular Human Rights Council resolutions 9/3 and 42/23 of 27 September 2019;

18. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to keep the right to development high on its agenda, to pursue further work in this area in full cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development in their activities, and to provide them with all the assistance necessary for the effective fulfilment of their mandates;

19. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of the High Commissioner on the biennial panel discussion of the Human Rights Council on the right to development, held at its forty-fifth session,<sup>8</sup> and requests the Office, in accordance with paragraph 27 of Council resolution 42/23, to organize the biennial panel discussion on the right to development in a fully accessible format to persons with disabilities, including sign language interpretation, at the

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/48/62 and 63.

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/48/56.

<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/42/38.

<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/48/22.

fifty-first session of the Council, and also requests the Office to prepare a report on the panel discussion and to submit it to the Council at its fifty-second session;

20. *Encourages* all Member States to cooperate with and to assist the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism in their tasks, and to supply all necessary information requested, where available, for the fulfilment of the mandates entrusted to them;

21. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to participate in relevant international dialogues and policy forums relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development, financing for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction with a view to enhance the integration of the right to development in these forums and dialogues, and requests Member States, international organizations, United Nations agencies, regional economic commissions and other relevant organizations to facilitate the meaningful participation of the Special Rapporteur in these forums and dialogues;

22. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur to provide advice to States, international financial and economic institutions and other relevant entities, the corporate sector and civil society on measures to achieve the goals and targets relating to the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the full realization of the right to development;

23. *Requests* all special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council regularly and systematically to integrate the right to development perspective into the implementation of their mandates;

24. *Encourages* relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to give due consideration to the right to development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to contribute further to the work of the Working Group, and to cooperate with the High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism in the fulfilment of their mandates with regard to the promotion and implementation of the right to development;

25. *Decides* to review the progress of the implementation of the present resolution, as a matter of priority, at its future sessions.

*43rd meeting  
8 October 2021*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 29 to 13, with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Fiji, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Korea, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

*Abstaining:*

Armenia, Brazil, Marshall Islands, Mexico and Uruguay]