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Human rights bodies and mechanisms

## Contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights

Study of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

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## I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 35/21, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to conduct a study on the ways in which development contributes to the enjoyment of all human rights by all, in particular on best experiences and practices, and to submit the report to the Council before its forty-first session. In the resolution, the Council welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the pledge therein to leave no one behind, and reaffirmed that the realization of sustainable development in all its three dimensions contributed to the promotion and protection of human rights for all. The Council also reaffirmed that the 2030 Agenda was an agenda of unprecedented scope and significance, accepted by all countries and applicable to all, and that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets were integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, took into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respected national policies and priorities, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments. The Council also affirmed that development contributed significantly to the enjoyment of all human rights by all, reaffirming that the existence of extreme poverty inhibited the full and effective enjoyment of human rights, and that its immediate alleviation and eventual eradication must remain a high priority for the international community, and that the efforts towards the achievement of that goal should be strengthened. In the resolution, the Council called upon all countries to realize people-centred development of the people, by the people and for the people, and invited all relevant bodies of the United Nations system to mobilize resources to assist States, as requested, in realizing sustainable and inclusive development. It reiterated that States should cooperate with each other in ensuring sustainable and inclusive development and eliminating obstacles to development, and that the international community should promote effective international cooperation in that regard.

2. At its nineteenth session, held in August 2017, the Advisory Committee heard presentations from experts and established a drafting group for the preparation of the present report. As at February 2019, the group comprised Mohamed Bennani, Lazhari Bouzid, Mikhail Lebedev (rapporteur), Xinsheng Liu (chair), Ajai Malhotra, Dheerujlall Baramlall Seetulsingh, Changrok Soh, Cheikh Tidiane Thiam and Jean Ziegler. A specific questionnaire was sent to Governments, relevant United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies and agencies, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders, with a deadline of 30 November 2017. A second questionnaire was sent with a deadline of 1 June 2018. As at 1 June 2018, 30 responses had been received: 16 from States, 3 from non-governmental organizations and 11 from national human rights institutions.

## II. Legal and institutional basis

3. The right to development does not reduce development to purely economic aspirations or goals but encompasses a broad, comprehensive understanding of development at the national and international levels. The right to development finds clear resonance in various provisions of several human rights instruments, which emphasizes the multifaceted, multidimensional and complex nature of development processes and the need for development to be inclusive, equitable and sustainable.

4. In the Declaration on the Right to Development, the General Assembly took into consideration the fact that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent, and that, in order to promote development, equal attention must be paid to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. There are many striking similarities between the Declaration and the international human rights instruments. Many elements of the right to development are reflected in the provisions and jurisprudence of the human rights instruments, such as self-determination; fair distribution of resources; equality and non-discrimination, particularly on grounds of sex, age, race and disability; active, free and meaningful participation; accountability and transparency; substantive rights relating to an adequate standard of living, including food, water and sanitation, housing, health services, education, employment and enjoyment of culture; freedom of expression, assembly and

association; and international assistance and cooperation. The right to development, as reaffirmed at the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, is aimed at addressing human needs and is an integral part of all human rights. International human rights standards, including the principles of non-discrimination, participation, accountability and transparency, are contained in human rights instruments and can be used to monitor progress towards the realization of the right to development by means of appropriate indicators, including those under consideration by the Working Group on the Right to Development.

5. The promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right to development should be continued in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The adoption of these instruments has given a new impetus to the implementation of the right to development.

6. The high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development underlined the importance of implementing the right to development by contributing to the mainstreaming of that right into development programmes. All Governments are invited to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and other special procedures in the performance of their mandated tasks and duties. The Special Rapporteur, working closely with the Working Group on the Right to Development, will surely provide new momentum to the discussions by injecting essential expertise into the implementation and realization of the right to development. As the mandate of the Special Rapporteur was established fairly recently, the mandate holder has not yet identified a comprehensive set of good practices. However, in its resolution 36/9, the Human Rights Council mandated the Special Rapporteur to conduct a series of regional consultations on the implementation of the right to development, with the aim of formulating general guidelines for implementing policies and programmes to promote and fulfil the right to development. The consultation for the Africa region was held in Addis Ababa in March 2018.<sup>1</sup>

7. All human rights bodies, United Nations agencies and stakeholders have a duty to make a concerted effort to promote a development-informed and interdependence-based interpretation of all human rights instruments, so as to highlight and emphasize the relevance and importance of the right to development in interpreting and applying the provisions of those instruments and in monitoring compliance with them. In that way, the realization of the right to development will be promoted by ensuring that the necessary conditions are in place for achieving economic and social progress and development for all, including vulnerable individuals.

8. The vulnerabilities of persons living in developing countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, and fragile States justify particular action. Poverty can breed conflict, and too many individuals are locked in cycles of meaningless violence, too many lives are being lost, far too much money is spent on military might, and far too little on fulfilling human rights.<sup>2</sup>

9. In addition to the global multilateral approach adopted by the Human Rights Council since its establishment in 2006 to follow and analyse the promotion and realization of the right to development, regional activities should be taken into account, in particular the human rights mechanisms in Africa, America, the Middle East and South-East Asia, and those associated with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. It is also important to consider interregional activities, for example, South-South cooperation.

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/SRDevelopment/Pages/RegionalConsultationPresentations.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/SRDevelopment/Pages/RegionalConsultationPresentations.aspx).

<sup>2</sup> Closing statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, available at <https://newsarchive.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=11583&LangID=E>.

### III. Conceptual context and comprehensive interpretation of the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights

10. In the Declaration on the Right to Development, development is defined as a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which is aimed at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom.

11. There is an increasing need for greater consensus on a stronger and clearer definition of the right to development for all, which is consistent with other human rights, namely the universal rights that are held and enjoyed by individuals and that each individual may demand from his or her own Government. The content of the right to development can be analysed on the basis of the text of the Declaration. In article 1 (1), it is stated that the right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. Development as a human right, as defined in the Declaration, must also be firmly rooted in equity within a national economy. Is there any further value added to the rights that are already recognized, such as the economic, social and cultural rights involved in human development, by invoking and exercising the right to development? The question would be legitimate if the right to development were defined merely as the sum total of those rights. Looking at the right to development as a process brings out the added value clearly: the right to development is not merely the realization of those rights individually, but their realization together in a manner that takes into account their effects on each other, both at a particular time and over a period of time. Similarly, an improvement in the realization of the right to development implies that the realization of some rights has improved while no other right has been violated or enjoyment of it has not been reduced.<sup>3</sup> According to one international expert, the right to development has to be understood as a composite right wherein all the rights, that is, economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, are realized together. The right to development is embedded in the principle of the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights, which implies that if any right is violated, the composite right to development cannot be achieved.<sup>4</sup> It is significant that the Declaration, being a resolution of the General Assembly, does not per se create any legal obligations, unlike human rights instruments. It is, however, a legitimate reference by which to hold Governments at least politically accountable as the international norm crystallizes into law. The realization of the right to development is often described in terms of an improvement of a “vector” of human rights, such that there is improvement of some rights or at least one right, without any other right being violated. So, the interdependence of rights has to be central in programming, monitoring and assessing development. In other words, the level of realization of one right is contingent on the level of realization of other rights. After all, peace, development and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. There is no hierarchy between them: development is not a precondition for the realization of human rights. Human rights are also rights, and it is a State’s duty to respect them.<sup>5</sup>

12. It is indisputable that realization of the right to development at the national level plays a priority role. Each Government provides resources and the means for a State to

<sup>3</sup> Argun K. Sengupta, “Conceptualizing the right to development for the twenty-first century” in *Realizing the Right to Development: Essays in Commemoration of 25 Years of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XIV.1), p. 70.

<sup>4</sup> Alfarargi Saad, “UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development”, paper collection prepared for the South-South Human Rights Forum, Beijing, December 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Contribution from Germany. All responses received from States, non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions to the questionnaire on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights are available at [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/DevelopmentEnjoymentAllHR.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/DevelopmentEnjoymentAllHR.aspx).

formulate and implement its own developmental strategies. The high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development supported the Working Group on the Right to Development from 2004–2010. In its report (A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2), the task force concluded that, as implied in the Declaration on the Right to Development, States have three levels of responsibility in relation to the realization of that right:

- (a) Internal responsibilities, through the formulation of national development policies and programmes affecting persons within the States' jurisdiction;
- (b) International responsibilities, through the adoption and implementation of policies affecting persons beyond the States' jurisdiction;
- (c) Collective responsibilities, through global and regional partnerships.

13. The right to development is a union of individual and collective human rights. A balance has to be kept between both, and the two must be mutually promoted. Only through individual development can a collective develop; only in a collective can individuals achieve well-rounded development. The right to development is a human right owned by each individual and by countries, nations and the entire international community. Therefore, the right to development must be enjoyed and shared by all peoples. It requires Governments of all countries to formulate development strategies and policies suited to their own realities, and it requires concerted efforts of the international community as a whole.

14. Equal access to development opportunities and benefits are human society ideals wherein every citizen can achieve well-rounded development and fully enjoy the right to development. Human beings hold the principal position concerning the realization of the right to development. Governments should value the people's supremacy and regard people as the fundamental driver of development; Governments should strive for, rely on and share among their citizens.

15. The right to development includes the right to education, a very important social and economic right. Education enables people to acquire skills that help to ensure access to employment, a good standard of living, health services, housing, and the possibility of gaining further knowledge for progressing in life. Education not only brings material benefits, but enables citizens to broaden their minds, make informed choices about good governance and choose a way of life that promotes the enjoyment of all civil and political rights while respecting the usual limits on freedom in terms of the rights of others and public interest in general. The right to development therefore opens the door to a life of freedom and dignity.

16. Poverty is a major obstacle to human rights. Without the production and supply of material goods, it is difficult or even impossible to realize any other human right. Development is a means of eliminating poverty. It provides the conditions necessary for realizing all other human rights and releases human potential. The right to development is incorporated into other human rights, and other human rights create the conditions to facilitate development and realize the right to development. Safeguarding the right to development is ultimately important for realizing economic, cultural, social and environmental rights, and obtaining civil and political rights.

17. However, the ambition of developing countries to adopt a legally binding convention for the international protection of the right to development has faced opposition and resistance from other States. This cleavage has caused political and ideological polarization and tension, explaining the failure to achieve universal support for strengthening the legal grounds for and common interpretation of the right to development.<sup>6</sup> There is a wide consensus that, if fully implemented, the Declaration on the Right to Development has the potential, together with the other international human rights instruments, to lead to the achievement of social justice and lasting peace in the world, by

<sup>6</sup> See Flavia Piovesan, "The right to development: promoting and protecting a human right in the contemporary context", available at <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/Session18/FlaviaPiovesan.pdf>.

allowing States to create an enabling international and national environment to overcome structural obstacles and challenges. However, political debates and controversies regarding the interpretation and implementation of the right to development continue, and its full implementation has not yet been achieved despite the adoption of new international instruments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda is a basic global guide to overcoming challenges for the full enjoyment of human rights through the implementation of the right to development. Serving human well-being is at the heart of inclusive and sustained development, and therefore there is a call for all Governments to take urgent measures to protect the endangered rights of citizens and their living standards, to address all social injustices and to promote equal opportunities for all people. It is emphasized in the 2030 Agenda that development and human rights are mutually reinforcing. The 2030 Agenda is grounded in human rights, including the international human rights instruments adopted by Member States, and informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development. Development contributes to better enjoyment of human rights, as greater availability of resources can enhance the availability, accessibility and quality of goods and services that are necessary for the enjoyment of human rights, such as the rights to health, education, food, water and sanitation, housing and social security. Development also contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

18. A human rights-based approach to development helps to ensure that development is sustainable, avoids a negative impact on people and reaches those who have been left behind. A rights-based approach helps to define sustainable development both substantively, as it clarifies the content of the rights required for development, and also in terms of the process, since incorporating the principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, accountability and transparency enhances the effectiveness and legitimacy of development. A human rights-based approach also sets out the duties of the international community in order to create a social and international order in which all human rights can be fully realized, which is closely related to Sustainable Development Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.

19. Inclusive development is the means of achieving the realization of human rights. The concept of inclusive development was first proposed by the Asian Development Bank in 2007 and is now widely accepted by the international community. Inclusive development is development for all, for individuals belonging to all countries and regions, and it attracts everyone's participation and benefits all. It is comprehensive, equal and fair, and includes economic, social and cultural development. Inclusion is the key to the fair distribution of resources, to generating more resources and to avoiding conflicts.<sup>7</sup>

20. At the international level, it is important to take into account the prevailing concept of "joint development", which is development that is fair, open, comprehensive and innovative, with a focus on promoting inclusive development and creating the conditions necessary for people to share the right to development. Under the concept of joint development, global economic governance should be based on equality to better reflect the new realities of the world economy, enhance the emerging market, and strengthen the representation and voice of developing countries in the international economic effort to ensure equal rights, equal opportunities, equal rules, and the realization of a shared right to development for all.<sup>8</sup>

21. There is still a strong debate surrounding the principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, accountability and transparency, which uphold the right to development, and over which priorities should be chosen in the formulation of national development policies. Some analysts believe that economic freedom and property rights are capable of guaranteeing a real and equal enjoyment of all other rights, that will result in a level of prosperity generated by economic growth that provides more and better

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<sup>7</sup> María Soledad Pérez Tello, "South-south inclusive development and realization of human rights", paper collection prepared for the South-South Human Rights Forum.

<sup>8</sup> Contribution from China.

opportunities for self-realization.<sup>9</sup> Other analysts believe that poverty needs to be eliminated before the right to development can be realized. If a basic livelihood cannot be guaranteed, realization of the right to development is not remotely possible.<sup>10</sup> Leaders of developing countries, particularly in the context of globalization, face a dilemma in deciding whether to first prioritize economic growth and then better promote human rights, or to begin by building a social environment based on respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, dialogue and social protection.<sup>11</sup> The expected solution could benefit from realism, pragmatism and fair prioritization in projects, careful planning, adjusted balance and correct harmony in budgets and development strategies, meticulous administration of resources for achieving good management of development and all human rights, and using the potential for international cooperation and advisory services as a strong subsidiary tool for increasing opportunities.

22. The indivisibility of human rights does not prevent some rights from being deemed more important than others in certain societies. Some Western academics believe that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is part of an attempt by the United Nations to spread liberal practices around the world, as an expression of liberal universalism.<sup>12</sup> Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, regional and hemispheric discussions have produced many other effective charters and interpretations of the Declaration. Among those interpretations, the “comprehensive Southern vision on human rights” deserves particular attention. It is based on the Declaration as interpreted in light of regional human rights documents and practices by Southern States. A report produced by an academic institution in 2017 following a call from the President of China to build a shared future for mankind, the comprehensive Southern vision on human rights concludes that both the rights to subsistence and to development are usually considered to be paramount in Southern societies as a result of the connection of those rights to human dignity, from which all human rights derive. The importance of the right to subsistence was already made clear in a 1991 white paper on human rights issued by the Government of China.<sup>13</sup> Sometimes, the term “right to survival” is used instead. Western countries propose another interpretation. For instance, the final goal of the Government of Spain is to contribute to human development through poverty eradication, which certainly contributes towards the full realization of fundamental human rights. The aim of the Government is to consolidate democratic processes and the rule of law, help to reduce inequalities and vulnerability to extreme poverty and crises, and promote economic opportunities for the poorest population groups. To reach that goal, it will foster systems of social cohesion, focusing on basic social services, while promoting women’s rights and gender equality and providing a quality response to humanitarian crises. With partner countries, its aim is to build a global citizenship committed to development; work towards guaranteeing the rule of law and human rights; and help other countries to support reforms of the justice system to strengthen the judiciary, make the justice system accessible to all citizens under equal conditions, and guarantee effective judicial protection and the right to a fair trial. Spain will promote accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights.<sup>14</sup>

23. The lack of specific benchmarks for the implementation of the right to development is a challenge to better assessing how development contributes to human rights. The establishment of development criteria and operational subcriteria is promising and could

<sup>9</sup> Luis Alberto Larrain, “The Pacific Alliance and One Belt One Road: Promoting Human Rights through Economic Freedom”, paper collection prepared for the South-South Human Rights Forum.

<sup>10</sup> Yanjun Cheng and Pai Li, “The Right to Development in Chinese Practice: Poverty Alleviation and Relief in China”, paper collection prepared for the South-South Human Rights Forum.

<sup>11</sup> Brice Constant Paillat, “Construire une communauté de destin pour l’humanité: nouvelle opportunité pour les droits de l’homme Sud-Sud”, paper collection prepared for the South-South Human Rights Forum.

<sup>12</sup> John Charvet and Eliza Kaczynska-Nay, *The Liberal Project and Human Rights: The Theory and Practice of a New World Order* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2008), pp. 3–5.

<sup>13</sup> Contribution from China. See also Tom Zwart, “Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind by Adopting a Comprehensive Southern Vision on Human Rights”, available at [www.chinahumanrights.org/html/2017/PAPERS\\_1212/9843.html](http://www.chinahumanrights.org/html/2017/PAPERS_1212/9843.html).

<sup>14</sup> Contribution from Spain.

mitigate some legal concerns over the ambiguities surrounding the interpretation of the concept of the right to development. The Working Group on the Right to Development completed the second reading of the draft right to development criteria and the corresponding operational subcriteria listed in the report of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development (A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2), with the aim of refining the criteria, starting from subcriterion 1 (h) (ii) bis (see A/HRC/33/45). In this context, human rights indicators are an important tool for assessing the extent to which development contributes to the enjoyment of human rights. The framework of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) entitled “Methodological approaches to human rights indicators” might be a useful reference in carrying out such an assessment. Many countries, particularly in Latin America, have adopted the framework.

## **IV. Ensuring that development contributes to the enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development: main challenges and positive practices**

### **A. Challenges**

24. At the global level, one of the major challenges faced in supporting national sustainable development agendas is the missing element of the 2030 Agenda: the absence of clearly defined, independent and robust mechanisms to hold Governments accountable to their commitment to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The current tools, as peer reviewed at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, even if relevant and consistent, are not exhaustive. Many countries still have not put in place or proposed such review mechanisms, making it more difficult to engage civil society organizations. In order to successfully involve civil society organizations and other partners at the national level in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, another challenging issue is the need to promote mechanisms to ensure their participation during the design, planning and monitoring phases of the policies and plans to implement the Sustainable Development Goals at the national and local levels.

25. The main challenge or obstacle is the weakness of the human rights-based approach as a guide for development policies. The way in which governments are structured consequently reflects the lack of an interdependent and systemic approach, which is fundamental to understanding and characterizing the human and social rights-based perspective. Government limitations are demonstrated in a highly fragmented approach at the national, regional and local levels, where human and social rights do not influence the way government is organized, creating a vertical organization in which the full range of social and everyday needs are not addressed.

26. Since the human rights-based approach is vulnerable, all the misconceived reforms, although they have an effect on people, are mostly not meeting their real needs. Consequently, the transformation in planning and management that is really needed is also weak.

27. The concept of sustainable development demands an integrated vision of all the Sustainable Development Goals, with an approach that will integrate social protection schemes and wealth redistribution measures, mostly due to progressive tax policies and universal social protection services, combined with a redistribution of wealth achieved through an improvement of gross national product at purchasing power parity as a consequence of higher productivity and progressive tax collection policies.

28. In order to propose an alternative to the current model, it is necessary to understand the complex nature of social policy integration and to take a systemic approach. In particular, it is necessary to combine economic and social policies, which means taking a

different economic approach in order to reinforce the sustainability of environmental and social justice.<sup>15</sup>

29. The relationship between development and human rights, including the right to development, has been a subject of continuous debate. There are disagreements over the nature of States' responsibilities in realizing the right to development and over how much emphasis to place on the national dimension of State obligations, such as those relating to individual rights and the corresponding State responsibilities, the rule of law, good governance and combating corruption, compared to international obligations, such as those relating to the international order, development cooperation and global governance. Looking beyond those debates, the 2030 Agenda is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights instruments, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and it is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development. This is the recognition that development cannot be achieved without the realization of human rights and, likewise, human rights cannot be fully realized until sufficient levels of development are attained. Development and human rights, including the right to development, are interlinked and mutually dependent.<sup>16</sup> If a State ignores its requirements for economic and social development, that leads to the undermining of human rights as a whole in its territory. Development is therefore the fundamental way to fulfil human rights.

30. After five years of applying the development framework established in the Declaration on the Right to Development and responding to the requests of the Working Group on the Right to Development, the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development became aware that the greatest challenge in the implementation of the right to development, in theory and in practice, is to reconcile the conceptual approaches to human rights and economics. In other words, the challenge is to maintain a holistic vision of human rights, applying indivisible and interdependent norms aimed at maximizing the well-being of all individuals and peoples, while addressing development concerns based on sound economic policies that foster growth with equity.<sup>17</sup>

31. The Special Rapporteur on the right to development identified politicization and a lack of engagement as challenges to the realization of the right to development. The political divide has resulted in a low level of engagement of both United Nations agencies and civil society organizations in promoting, protecting and fulfilling the right to development (A/HRC/36/49, para. 30). Despite the progressive evolution of the concept of the right to development and its inclusion in some international and regional instruments and national constitutions, the general levels of awareness and engagement in its implementation are low. Progress in development has been uneven, particularly for people in Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and in developing countries more generally. In addition, the low level of awareness about the right to development among grass-roots organizations further hampers advocacy efforts. The Special Rapporteur also identified some adverse global trends relating to global economic development that affect the realization of the right to development: the global financial and economic crisis, the energy and climate crisis, the increasing number of natural disasters, the new global pandemics, the increase in automation in many sectors, corruption, illicit financial flows, privatization of public services, austerity and other measures, and the ageing of the global population, including in developing countries. The rise of nationalistic tendencies and the related trend to move away from international solidarity and cooperation may further weaken international governance. Addressing these challenges will require the concerted effort of all relevant stakeholders, both at the national and international levels.

<sup>15</sup> Contribution from the World Social Forum on Health and Social Security.

<sup>16</sup> Contribution from the Special Rapporteur on the right to development.

<sup>17</sup> High-level task force on the implementation of the right to development, "The right to development in practice: provisional lessons learned" in *Realizing the Right to Development: Essays in Commemoration of 25 Years of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XIV.1), p. 469.

32. The evaluation of the enjoyment of human rights as a result of development policies depends on the level of participation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which is closely linked to ensuring the availability of adequate statistical data for effective and participatory monitoring and review mechanisms. In many countries, the process to align national statistical systems with the required standards has still not been launched or has not been sufficiently participatory, even though it can be crucial to many aspects relevant to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and their capacity for adaptation and localization to engage with and involve marginalized groups. To that end, the availability of adequately disaggregated sets of data is of primary importance, and participatory processes in their selection and monitoring should be ensured. Another major challenge to supporting the national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is determined by the indivisible and global nature of the 2030 Agenda. Interdependence and links between the Goals require innovative and integrated approaches and engagement from all ministries and government sectors to enable cross-cutting schemes for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. That interdependence requires Governments to build an overarching strategy in their national adaptation and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which should result in processes capable of integrating sectoral policies and promoting the review of those policies in order to improve their alignment with the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, within their national strategy, Governments should not only list, but also assess and revise the existing policy frameworks and conduct an in-depth gap analysis to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda. This process, already launched by many Governments, often needs more ambitious and participatory approaches and mechanisms to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development. Another widely observed challenge for the national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is the inadequacy and inconsistency in the mobilization of financial resources at all levels, which could seriously undermine the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, despite the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

33. In different contexts, some of the challenges faced in promoting the enjoyment of human rights become real obstacles when supporting the implementation of national sustainable development agendas. The most relevant challenges are:

(a) The insufficient level of involvement of people and civil society organizations in planning and implementation processes, and in the design and adoption of national strategies. However, international stakeholders have been encouraged by national efforts to ensure local involvement, including the involvement of women, children and persons with disabilities;

(b) Poor efforts to ensure a policy coherence framework and to revise specific sectoral policy strategies, if they are not aligned to the 2030 Agenda, during the adoption process of national strategies for sustainable development;

(c) The lack of clearly defined and participatory monitoring and review mechanisms;

(d) The insufficient localization and tailoring of national sustainable development agendas to address more marginalized groups and regions. Some government departments are reluctant to implement recommendations from national coordinators as required by the law. This reluctance diminishes the effectiveness of Governments in the protection and promotion of human rights and principles of good governance. Some Governments, even in stable countries, ignore glaring inequalities in regional development, stagnant wages or various inadequacies in the social field;<sup>18</sup>

(e) The inadequate mobilization of financial resources. Despite advocating for the improvement of budgets and seeking support from development partners where possible, government agencies have been facing financial constraints that stand as an obstacle to the effective performance of their functions and planned activities, and their independence.

<sup>18</sup> See Steve Coll, "The distrust that Trump relies upon", *New Yorker*, 22 December 2017.

Budgets do not provide adequate resources and there is also a lack of adequate working facilities such as computers and means of transport;

(f) Unilateral coercive measures imposed against some countries and their economies, especially those in situations of war or internal conflict, as is the case with the Syrian Arab Republic, come with disregard for the purposes and objectives of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals;<sup>19</sup>

(g) The adverse impact of illicit financial flows on the ability of States to mobilize domestic revenue, and the constraints imposed by investment treaty provisions on the ability of States to pursue industrial development policies;<sup>20</sup>

(h) The failure to include and protect vulnerable and marginalized persons, including persons living in poverty, minority groups, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, and to eliminate discrimination against them;

(i) The continued economic sluggishness in developed countries, which reduces opportunities to implement development strategies through industrial policies, involuntary migration, climate change policies, rapid technological transformations and demographic growth.<sup>21</sup>

34. It is important to underline the general lack of knowledge of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals among the general public, and sometimes among governmental officials.<sup>22</sup> Information on the 2030 Agenda is often reserved for insiders, while the general public knows nothing about the Agenda or its content. The general lack of knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals also has a negative impact on the capacity, at the national and local levels, to address problems that societies face every day in relation to global issues, such as wars, structural poverty or mass migration. While members of the general public know that there is a need to address the various social emergencies, with no knowledge of the Agenda 2030, they remain unaware of the strategies that have been agreed at the international level to remove the causes of some of these emergencies. It is not easy to understand whether the lack of knowledge is due to a lack of political will or a simple underestimation of the potential of this global and universal Agenda. A global communication effort to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals should be prioritized, for example, the Goals should be systematically linked with the issues and emergencies the world faces every day. This would allow people to feel hopeful that there is an international plan and a set of measures, based on a global consensus, designed to overcome the crises affecting countries and societies.

## B. Positive practices

35. Many models of established or prospective practices have already been tested and fully documented. One example of a human rights community development project is a bilateral programme between the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines and the Human Rights Commission of New Zealand, which has a focus on three selected indigenous communities in the Philippines and counterpart Maori communities in New Zealand. The documentation produced as a result of the project illustrates the importance of peoples' direct participation in their own development, and the fact that their local governments were fully engaged and involved shows the importance of effective governance, which is consistent with the principles of the right to development.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Contribution from the Syrian Arab Republic.

<sup>20</sup> Bat-Erdene Ayush, "Realization of inclusive development and human rights under South-South cooperation", paper collection prepared for the South-South Human Rights Forum.

<sup>21</sup> Vicente Yu, Deputy Executive Director of the South Centre, presentation given during the twentieth session of the Advisory Committee, 21 February 2018 (see A/HCR/AC/20/2).

<sup>22</sup> Contribution from the Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires, Kinshasa.

<sup>23</sup> See Virginia B. Dandan, "International solidarity, the right to development and the agents of change". Human Rights Council panel on the way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice (Geneva, 14 September 2011).

36 The Government of India has adopted a strategy for inclusive development, with the creation of entitlements backed by legal guarantees on aspects of life that are vital for an individual's well-being and inclusion in the economic and social mainstream of society. The Government has worked towards realizing the rights to information, to work and to education. The vision of *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas* (collective effort, inclusive development) forms the cornerstone of the Indian development agenda and several government programmes are aimed at achieving that vision. The *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* programme is the world's largest financial inclusion programme. By leveraging that programme, a biometric identity system and mobile telephones, the Government has directly distributed Rs 1.6 trillion (US\$ 25 billion) to 329 million beneficiaries. The implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act generated over 2 billion person-days of employment during 2016 and 2017 for disadvantaged individuals. Over 130 million people have gained access to life and accident insurance under new programmes. Direct financial assistance is being extended to poor households to secure housing for all by 2022. More than 800 million Indians receive affordable food grain through the public distribution system. A midday meal programme provides nutritious meals to 100 million children in primary schools, and 62 million soil health cards issued to farmers have boosted sustainable agriculture that is adaptive to climate change. Over 22 million families have received liquid petroleum gas connections under the *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana* scheme, and the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* initiative provides a comprehensive package of welfare services for girls.<sup>24</sup>

37. The Government of China attaches great importance to implementing the 2030 Agenda, integrating it into the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development and other medium- and long-term development strategies. In September 2016, China launched its National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Guided by the vision of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, China has worked to promote economic, political, cultural, social and ecological progress in all respects through the alignment of strategies, institutional guarantees, social mobilization, allocation of resources, risk management, international cooperation, and oversight and review mechanisms. The Government has been implementing the 2030 Agenda in all sectors and has achieved early results for several targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>25</sup> China made efforts to lift 800 million people out of poverty within three decades – one of the key goals in the 2030 Agenda.<sup>26</sup> More than 1.3 billion Chinese people have improved access to food and clothing. In its response to the questionnaire, the Government of China indicated that China had been praised by the United Nations as one of the fastest developing countries in the past 30 years. The national development strategy of China is aimed at continuously protecting and realizing the right to development as a basic goal. The Government established the “three steps” strategy, followed by the “new three step” development strategy for modernization in the first half of the twenty-first century, and the “well-off society” strategy and the “two centenary” goals. The call to respect and guarantee human rights was put forward as an important goal for building a prosperous society in all respects. The Thirteenth Five-Year Plan adheres to the new concept of development, which requires everybody to participate, make an effort and share resources, with an emphasis on equal opportunities for all, protecting basic livelihoods and improving the well-being of people. The Plan is aimed at allowing all people to participate in an overall prosperous society, and a strong policy framework is provided for the comprehensive promotion of all human rights, including the right to development. China has established an interministerial joint conference mechanism composed of 43 government departments to comprehensively promote the implementation of the National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and has achieved fruitful results. The progress report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda<sup>28</sup> provides a comprehensive summary of implementation measures and progress, and useful references for other countries to implement their own sustainable development agendas. Since 2009, the Government has formulated and implemented three national

<sup>24</sup> See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15836India.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> See China, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *China's Progress Report on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (August 2017).

<sup>26</sup> Yanjun Cheng and Pai Li, “The right to development in Chinese practice”.

human rights action plans, continued to increase the protection of human rights and further improved the level and quality of people's lives. The promotion of economic, social and cultural rights has been comprehensively strengthened. Civil and political rights are effectively protected. Awareness about respecting and safeguarding human rights has been significantly enhanced throughout society. International human rights exchange and cooperation has continuously been promoted. The cause of human rights with Chinese socialism characteristics has been stepped onto a new level. In the implementation of the national human rights action plan, the Government has given priority to the protection of the right to development, and made efforts to solve the direct and current problems that concern most people, to ensure that all members of society enjoy equal participation in the promotion of economic and social development. In addition, the Government has established special action plans for economic, cultural, social and environmental development, relating to, inter alia, poverty alleviation, the Internet, innovation, technology, trade, regional development, social security, education, health and the environment. The action plans are aimed at effectively protecting all aspects of human rights for all citizens, including those belonging to ethnic minorities, women, children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities.<sup>27</sup>

38. In Spain, all international human rights instruments that have been endorsed by the State are fully supported in all five master plans that have guided Spanish cooperation efforts to date. The Government follows several strategies, such as the peacebuilding strategy, the women and peacebuilding action plan and the strategy for culture and development, and the work of the Spanish embassies and the overseas cooperation units of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation. The Government works through country partnership frameworks and strategic association agreements with multilateral development organizations and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation.<sup>28</sup>

39. In October 2017, the Government of Italy finalized and adopted its National Sustainable Development Strategy, the draft version of which had been introduced during the voluntary national review at the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development. The aim of the Strategy is to define a strategic framework to lay the foundations for a sustainable future and adjust the route taken for national reform from a long-term perspective. The road to integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into national economic, social and environmental programmes is still long, but the National Strategy is a first step of a multilevel and multi-stakeholder process meant to combine a set of sectoral policy instruments and national plans into one single policy framework. The next steps are to build stronger and more effective convergence between the current single policies and measures and the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to establish intersectoral coordination mechanisms in order to create synergy between existing and new or revised policies required for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. One of the most innovative and large-scale projects implemented by the Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII Association, a non-governmental organization, is a network of social cooperatives gathered in a sharing consortium, aiming at integrating disadvantaged persons and persons with disabilities into society and the employment market.<sup>29</sup>

40. The United Republic of Tanzania has developed and implemented several development policies and programmes. The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance, designed to play a wide-ranging role within its mandate under the Constitution, spearheaded the formulation and implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2013–2017.<sup>30</sup> The Plan established a comprehensive national system for the protection and promotion of human rights through specific activities and actions. Under the Plan, the

<sup>27</sup> Contribution from China.

<sup>28</sup> Contribution from Spain.

<sup>29</sup> Contribution from the Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII Association.

<sup>30</sup> The National Human Rights Action Plan was developed by the Government under the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs. The formulation process, which began in 2008, involved a number of key stakeholders, including representatives from government departments, civil society organizations, the United Nations and academic institutions.

Government sought to, inter alia, mainstream human rights and promote a human rights-based approach to national development policies and plans.<sup>31</sup>

41. In Kenya, in an attempt to achieve education for all, the Government developed a policy framework for nomadic education in the country, and to increase employment opportunities and reduce poverty, it is focused on implementing the National Employment Policy and Strategy approved by Parliament in 2015, a programme to train female engineers, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, Vision 2030 and the first and second medium-term plans.<sup>32</sup>

42. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, within a policy to build a State that upholds the rule of law, the Government is implementing the Legal Sector Master Plan on the Development of the Rule of Law, creating a conducive and enabling legal environment for better enjoyment of human rights by the population. The Government made poverty reduction a priority in the seventh national socioeconomic development plan. In particular, it aims to graduate from its status as a least developed country by 2020.<sup>33</sup>

43. The Government of Denmark launched a national action plan on the Sustainable Development Goals in March 2017, in which it listed how it intends to pursue and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Danish Institute for Human Rights has entered into partnerships with numerous stakeholders, notably the Danish International Development Agency, to implement a number of programmes to promote a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Institute has issued a number of documents linking human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, for instance, a paper on the Goals and human rights monitoring.<sup>34</sup>

44. In the Syrian Arab Republic, efforts have been made to alleviate the consequences of war and restore safety and stability in large parts of the country. The Government is working on creating conditions to re-establish development paths, and it has started to work on post-crisis national development programmes, focusing on social justice, human rights, social cohesion and belonging, increasing participation in development and enjoyment of its benefits, promoting economic growth and sustaining development.<sup>35</sup>

45. The concept of South-South cooperation in current development discourse emerged in the 1970s and was closely associated with the discourse surrounding the New International Economic Order, which was aimed at overcoming asymmetries and gaps inherited from previous decades and providing an alternative to the traditional North-South relationship. Despite numerous challenges in the 2000s, South-South cooperation has brought forth a new wave of optimism for innovative opportunities to encourage increased hemispheric partnerships and solidarity. This encouragement not only has a positive impact on economic and technological ties, but also on civil society issues. There is evidence of this increased level of partnership in the new groupings that have emerged across the South (see A/66/229), including Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP).<sup>36</sup> Under the framework of South-South cooperation, China has provided assistance and support to other developing countries to reduce poverty, improve people's livelihoods and protect their right to survival

<sup>31</sup> Contribution from the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance, United Republic of Tanzania. See also Anthony Kanyama, "The realization of the development right in South-South. Take examples on poverty reduction, health, education, employment", paper collection prepared for the South-South Human Rights Forum.

<sup>32</sup> Kariuki Claries Gatwiri, "The realization of South-South development rights: a case study of Kenya", paper collection prepared for the South-South Human Rights Forum.

<sup>33</sup> Vilayluck Seneduangdeth, "The realization of the rights to development with poverty alleviation, education, health and employment in case of the Lao PDR", paper collection prepared for the South-South Human Rights Forum.

<sup>34</sup> Contribution from the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

<sup>35</sup> Contribution from the Syrian Arab Republic.

<sup>36</sup> Mohammad Reza Ghaebi, "South-South cooperation and realization of the right of development: challenges and opportunities", paper collection prepared for the South-South Human Rights Forum.

and development.<sup>37</sup> The Beijing Declaration, which contains a summary of the academic and practical expectations and ambitions in this field, was adopted at the first South-South Human Rights Forum, held in December 2017.<sup>38</sup>

46. The African Union is implementing Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. Five of the seven key aspirations have a focus on advancing the right to development. The African Union declared the period 2017–2026 as the Human and Peoples’ Rights Decade in Africa.<sup>39</sup>

## V. Conclusions and recommendations

### A. Conclusions

47. The issues addressed in the implementation of the right to development touch on all aspects of the global economy and domestic policy that affect the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals. The imperative to achieve both development and the realization of human rights is not without tension and unrealistic hopes. Resistance from global and regional institutions created for purposes other than the promotion of human rights, and from the Governments creating those institutions, is inevitable.

48. It is fundamental to engage as many countries as possible to manage the increasingly active role of the international community in fundamental issues related to development and human security. Development is, among other things, a question of social change and has a basic role in promoting the enjoyment of human rights. Using lessons learned from positive and negative experiences to act in a more effective manner has the potential to improve living conditions. Although the economic aspect is an important one, it is not the only factor in human development. Experiences of international exchange often have deeper and longer-lasting effects on development.

49. Human rights are at the beginning of the development process, not at the end. The process and the objectives relating to development should be human rights-based. Promising practices have shown that a human rights-based approach, domestically and internationally, leads to improved sustainable development efforts and greater returns on investments. Human rights principles and standards provide guidance on what should be done to achieve freedom and dignity for all, by building the capacities of public and private institutions, strengthening social cohesion with a focus on the most marginalized groups, anchoring human rights entitlements within a framework of laws and institutions, and establishing democratic processes.

#### 1. Development is conducive to the prosperity of a State

50. The development of each State is conducive to improving the living standards and well-being of its population. Poverty and backwardness can lead a country to fall into chaos. Only while in a situation of peace and stability can a State and its society establish the basic environment necessary for the enjoyment of all human rights by all. The development and stability of a State are closely related to the enjoyment of human rights. Therefore, the sustainable economic and social development of a country, together with democracy and rule of law, is conducive to better balancing social relations between all levels of society, to creating a just, prosperous and harmonious society, and to better protecting human rights and improving the enjoyment of human rights.

<sup>37</sup> Contribution from China.

<sup>38</sup> See [http://p.china.org.cn/2017-12/10/content\\_50095729.htm](http://p.china.org.cn/2017-12/10/content_50095729.htm).

<sup>39</sup> Bamazi Kossi Tcha, “The realization of South-South development rights: examples of poverty alleviation, health, education and job creation”, available at [http://www.chinahumanrights.org/html/2017/PAPERS\\_1212/9849.html](http://www.chinahumanrights.org/html/2017/PAPERS_1212/9849.html).

51. The level of national development determines the level of enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in a country. When a State improves its level of development, it has a strengthened capacity to further improve the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

52. The development of a State also relates to the enjoyment of civil and political rights within its jurisdiction. Development is conducive to raising the level of education of the population and its cultural and moral values. A country's general development, especially in the fields of education, culture and legal methodology (knowledge) can promote and provide a moral foundation for democracy, the rule of law and good governance within the country, improving people's understanding of their human rights and their willingness to exercise them consciously. Development should facilitate the positive mental and moral evolution of every human being in the interests of the current and future generations, and it should counter threats to the progress of mankind. In that respect, development can serve as a basis for the enjoyment of political rights. Development also provides a material basis for the realization of civil and political rights.

2. Development contributes proactively to the enjoyment of all human rights

53. Development and human rights are two major clusters leading to a harmonious just society. Both clusters depend on and promote each other. Development is not simply the economic development of a State, or any specific development project, but the comprehensive development of the population, including individuals and society. Development is the process of promoting and advancing human rights and is the fundamental way to realize human rights; economic development is a required foundation for the full realization of human rights. The promotion of human rights is the purpose of development, and it is a gradual and natural process that occurs in the course of development. It would be unfair to view issues of development and issues of human rights as contradictory. It is wrong to assert that there is no development without human rights, or that there are no human rights without development.

54. As a country develops, more conditions emerge for the enjoyment of human rights. If the principles of good governance and human rights protection were a tall building, it would be difficult to build a superstructure without economic and social development as a firm base. By ensuring a solid and stable foundation for development, the various efforts to protect human rights in a country will be more effective.

55. Poverty eradication is among the most important requirements for development and a substantial condition for the enjoyment of human rights. The experiences of many poor and least developed countries show that poverty is a great obstacle to the enjoyment of all human rights. Poverty breeds conflicts and violence that endanger human rights, and development is necessary in order to eliminate poverty. When a person living in extreme poverty lacks basic living conditions, food to eat, basic education and medical care, he or she is unable to exercise and enjoy his or her basic human rights.

56. Poverty in a country or region does not provide the State or regional authority with justification or an excuse to violate human rights. However, the enjoyment of basic human rights is severely constrained by the lack of basic conditions for survival, such as food, clothing and development. Poverty has provided space for human rights violations.

57. The international community should cooperate to promote the common development of all countries through full, open and equal cooperation, including economic and social assistance to developing countries, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and improvement of conditions for the enjoyment of all human rights. In order to promote the common development of all countries and guarantee the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, Governments of all States should cooperate with each other and conduct exchanges on an equal footing to promote mutual economic and social development among all countries and generally improve the conditions for the enjoyment of all human rights by all.

58. South-South cooperation opens up new opportunities for developing countries to eradicate poverty and to achieve development. South-South cooperation is an important channel for developing countries in their aim for self-reliance and social progress. Mutual understanding and cooperation among developing countries, attaching importance to the universal realization of the right to development, should be focused on the creation of appropriate conditions for the promotion of development and the full enjoyment of human rights.

## **B. Recommendations**

59. The United Nations mechanisms, OHCHR and all stakeholders should play an increasing role in promoting the common development of all countries, in particular:

(a) The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council should attach due importance to the constructive consideration of the right to development and development issues and their visibility;

(b) OHCHR should promote, on an equal footing, the realization of development with a human rights-based approach in all countries, and the protection of human rights with a development-based approach, and work towards capacity-building and improving the conditions for the enjoyment of human rights in all countries, including on the basis of coordination between agencies within the United Nations system that have direct relevance to the enjoyment of human rights in the context of the right to development, as outlined by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 39/9 on the right to development;

(c) When dealing with thematic and country issues, the human rights special procedures and treaty bodies should take into account and be guided by the concept of the “level of national development” and development statistics of the relevant United Nations development agencies.

60. In accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, all States have the same obligations and responsibilities for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and should make the same efforts to achieve the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and various other international human rights instruments, without discrimination or distinction.

61. At the same time, since different countries have different levels of economic and social development, there are certain material obstacles and conditional restrictions that impede the realization of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, and especially in developing countries. All countries should be involved in striving for development. The eradication of extreme poverty should be the priority in order to create better conditions for the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in all countries.

62. The United Nations should continue to attach appropriate importance to providing assistance to developing countries in the context of their specific challenges in the protection of human rights.

63. Achieving national development for the better promotion and protection of human rights should be a goal for Governments in their development planning. The United Nations agencies, especially those responsible for development and human rights, should make their practical contributions to the protection of human rights in all countries, in order to achieve universal development, eliminate human rights violations and provide conditions for respecting human rights.

64. At the current stage of evaluating different scopes, mechanisms and frames of developmental discourse, the incremental focus on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights within the implementation of the right to development can be strengthened through:

(a) Increasing conceptual clarity and methodological consistency and promoting a positive institutional experience, particularly with regard to the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development. Lessons learned

from those three elements can help the Working Group on the Right to Development to further improve and strengthen its collaborative efforts to fulfil its mandate in accordance with the Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72 and Human Rights Council resolution 4/4;

(b) Developing separate sets of guidelines with contextualized implementation strands. Future documents could take the form of multisectoral outcomes of a varying legal nature as appropriate to the specific context in which they are intended to operate, and could integrate human rights into development discourse through a framework on the right to development established by the high-level task force and endorsed by the Working Group;

(c) Promoting an interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder process to adopt a human rights-based approach to realizing the right to development, including the institutional engineering of the complementary roles of the current human rights mechanisms, eventually replacing the high-level task force with an ad hoc expert body;

(d) Supporting the initiative of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development to continue regional consultations on good practices in the practical implementation of the right to development in order to identify a comprehensive set of good practices.

65. The OHCHR section responsible for development and the right to development should be strengthened in terms of personnel and financial and other resources.

66. A feasibility study should be carried out regarding the establishment of a research and implementation body (such as a development fund for human rights) within the United Nations system, in particular within OHCHR, that would be responsible for studying and implementing the contribution of development to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Human Rights Council could consider the possibility of widening the responsibilities of the Working Group on the Right to Development and the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, to include:

(a) Providing basic information on the development and enjoyment of human rights in all countries to United Nations bodies, especially in the field of human rights;

(b) Providing national development data and data on human rights as relevant background material for consideration by human rights special procedures when dealing with human rights issues;

(c) Providing project support for national development and the promotion of human rights;

(d) Conducting development and capacity-building projects in the field of human rights in various countries;

(e) Establishing regular contact with various United Nations specialized development agencies and setting up an information-sharing platform.

67. A seminar should be held on development and the promotion of human rights, and attention should continue to be paid to the topic at the academic level.

68. The Human Rights Council should instruct the Advisory Committee to continue its relevant research on the basis of the present report and invite States to establish guidance on the activities of the United Nations and Governments relating to the contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights, taking into consideration the following: activities and viewpoints expressed by the international community, including in commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; attitudes of countries towards the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments; and periodic progress made in relation to the 2030 Agenda.