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Global Consultation on the Realization of the
Right to Development as a Human Right

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"Proposals for the Implementation of
the Declaration on the Right to Development"

Paper submitted by a number of participants from
Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and Indigenous Peoples

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PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

submitted by a number of participants from
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Context

1. The struggle for human rights and development is a global one that continues in all countries, "developed" and "developing," and must involve all peoples, including indigenous peoples, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities, as well as all other individuals and groups.
2. No one model of development is universally applicable to all cultures and peoples.
3. Appropriation of the resources of "developing" countries by private interests in the developed countries intensified in the 1980s, and may accelerate in the 1990s.
4. The current regime of external debt repayment and structural adjustment maintained by the World Bank, IMF, and commercial banks is destructive of the right to development. Other significant international obstacles to development include unjust terms of trade, monetary policy, conditions tied to bilateral and multilateral aid, and the vestiges of colonialism (including the situation of indigenous peoples) and apartheid.
5. Failure to achieve true development has also been attributable to undemocratic governments which, through complicity between internally powerful elites and external interests, have diverted resources to private gain or to armaments, and have adopted inappropriate or destructive development strategies.

Pr&misss

6. *Rights.* All of the elements of the Declaration on the Right to Development, including human rights, are complementary and interdependent.
7. *Responsibility.* All States engage in activities affecting the development process, both internally and in their relations with other States and peoples. The creation of national and international conditions in which the right to development can be realised fully is a responsibility of States, the international community, and of all peoples, individuals, and groups.

8. *Peace and security.* Peace, development, and human rights are interdependent. Respect for and realization of human rights through the process of development is essential to national stability and the promotion of international peace and security. Development policies that disregard human rights, or which foster regional or international disparities, promote inequalities and intensify social and all other conflicts.

9. *Environment and culture.* The world's future can only be ensured if the global environment is adequately protected and restored. In addition, all cultures and peoples form part of the common heritage of humankind and have a dignity and value that must be respected. Both environmental and cultural considerations should therefore be an integral part of national, regional and international development strategies.

10. *Democracy.* Democracy at all levels (local, national, and international) and in all spheres is essential to true development. Inequality in international relations, as within individual countries, is incompatible with genuine democracy and a barrier to any genuine development as defined by the Declaration. Fundamental to democratic participation is the right of individuals, groups, and peoples to take decisions collectively and to choose their own representative organizations, and the freedom of democratic action, free from interference.

11. *Self-determination.* The right to self-determination has many aspects, both individual and collective. It involves both the establishment of States and the operation of States once they have been established. The mere formation of a State does not in itself fully realize the right to self-determination, unless its citizens and constituent peoples continue to enjoy the right to their own cultural identity and to determine their own economic, social and political system through democratic institutions and actions, and the State genuinely enjoys continuing freedom of choice, within the bounds of international law.

12. *Participation.* To be effective in mobilizing human and natural resources and combatting inequalities, discrimination, poverty and exclusion, participation must be democratic and involve genuine ownership or control of productive resources such as land, financial capital and technology. Participation is also the principal means by which individuals and peoples collectively determine their needs and priorities, and ensure the protection and advancement of their rights and interests. The principles of democratic equality and non-discrimination are as applicable to relationships among individuals and groups as to relations among States in the international community.