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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

## **Report of the Working Group on the Right to Development on its eighteenth session (Geneva, 3- 7 April 2017)**

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## I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 9/3 in which the Council decided to renew the mandate of the Working Group until it has completed the tasks entrusted to it, and that the Working Group would convene annual sessions of five working days and submit its reports to the Council.

2. The mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/72 is to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, at the national and international levels, providing recommendations thereon and further analysing obstacles to its full enjoyment, focusing each year on specific commitments in the Declaration; to review reports and any other information submitted by States, United Nations agencies, other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations on the relationship between their activities and the right to development; and to present for the consideration of the Commission a sessional report on its deliberations, including advice to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the implementation of the right to development, and suggesting possible programmes of technical assistance at the request of interested countries with the aim of promoting the implementation of the right to development. The mandate was extended by the Human Rights Council in its decision 1/102 and renewed in successive resolutions.

## II. Organization of the session

3. The Working Group convened its eighteenth session in Geneva from 3 to 7 April 2017. The session was opened by the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights. In her opening statement,<sup>1</sup> the Deputy High Commissioner assured the Working Group of the High Commissioner's continued and full support in its efforts aimed at the promotion of and respect for the right to development. She noted that the right to development had its roots in decolonization and the quest for economic, not just political, independence. The human rights of all were to be fully protected and economic development was to be achieved through the creation of a more collaborative and cooperative vision of global economic relations, including respect for the interests of developing States in those relations. One dominant theme of the right to development was therefore the creation of fairer economic conditions for all countries, whereby developing countries could genuinely exercise their economic autonomy without being subjected to the hegemonic interests of dominant States.

4. At its first meeting on 3 April 2017, the Working Group re-elected by acclamation Zamir Akram as Chair-Rapporteur. In his opening statement,<sup>2</sup> the Chair-Rapporteur noted the endorsement by the Human Rights Council on 24 March 2017 of the appointment of Saad Alfarargi as Special Rapporteur on the right to development. The newly created mandate (see Council resolution 33/14) includes contributing to the work of the Working Group, taking into account its deliberations and recommendations while avoiding any duplication and engaging with relevant stakeholders for cooperation in implementing the right to development. He highlighted that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals was in its second year and that the theme of the meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, to be held in July 2017, would be "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". He considered it important to maximize the impact of all those processes for development and to ensure complementarity, cooperation and coordination among the various mechanisms and

<sup>1</sup> The full text of the statement is available from [www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/18thSession.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/18thSession.aspx).

<sup>2</sup> The full text of the statement is available from [www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/18thSession.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/18thSession.aspx).

processes. The Working Group subsequently adopted its agenda (A/HRC/WG.2/18/1) and programme of work (A/HRC/WG.2/18/INF.1).

5. During the session, the Working Group considered the report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development (A/HRC/33/31), contributions by States to the implementation of the right to development, standards for the implementation of the right to development (A/HRC/WG.2/17/2) and comments and views from relevant stakeholders on the draft right to development criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria. The Working Group also engaged in an interactive dialogue with experts on the implementation and realization of the right to development.

### **III. Summary of proceedings**

#### **A. General statements**

6. Speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela referred to the XVII Summit of the Movement, held in that country in September 2016, at which the commitment to promote and protect all human rights through constructive and cooperative international dialogue, capacity-building, technical assistance and the recognition of good practices was reaffirmed. The Heads of State and Government highlighted the historical significance of the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development 30 years ago, which requires a profound change in the international economic structure. The realization of the right to development was more than ever a necessity and should be central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The implementation of the agenda was dependent on an integrated, holistic and comprehensive approach by all States and the mainstreaming of the right to development in the policies and operational activities of the United Nations and the international financial and multilateral trading systems. They expressed deep concern about the challenges and obstacles within the Working Group and stated that international cooperation was integral to the implementation and realization of the right to development, and could help the Working Group overcome the challenges that hindered progress. They hoped that the Working Group would be able to develop a comprehensive and unique set of standards that would contribute to the drafting of a legal instrument that would make development a reality for all.

7. The European Union remained strongly committed to achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty; promoting respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms; working towards ensuring security, conflict prevention and resolution; and encouraging good governance, gender equality, human development, accountability and equitable globalization. The delegate reiterated the Union's support for the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights, including the right to development, the multidimensional nature of development strategies and that individuals were the central subjects of the development process. While national development efforts should be supported, States — acting individually and collectively — had the primary responsibility for ensuring that their citizens benefited from development. The European Union was not in favour of the elaboration of an international legal standard that would be binding in nature, for, in its view, that was not the appropriate mechanism to realize the right to development.

8. Speaking on behalf of the African Group and expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement, the delegate from Tunisia stated that, at that challenging time when the world was facing a series of crises, including economic, financial, social and climate-related crises, African States firmly believed that the realization of the right to development was a necessity. Human development and human rights were symbiotic and reinforced each other conceptually. An effective global partnership for development through human rights-based policy coherence and coordination at all levels was an important foundation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in an equitable and sustainable manner. The delegate called on all actors in the international community to promote international

cooperation and to redouble their efforts for the effective promotion and protection of the right to development.

9. The delegate from Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, stated that there was no easy path to achieve the objective of the operationalization of the right to development. In its view, the Working Group must overcome conceptual, political and practical differences and the rhetoric of questioning the basis of the right to development served no fruitful purpose and was baseless, given its endorsement in many instruments. The Working Group must now focus its energies on addressing ways and means of implementing the right to development for all. Sustainable Development Goal 17 on revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development provided guidelines to support the realization of the right to development by addressing core issues such as resource mobilization, technological and technical support, capacity-building, open, equitable and non-discriminatory trading and financial systems, debt servicing, and data collection and monitoring in disaggregated form. Those targets have also been covered in the draft right to development criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria, which could contribute to developing a human rights-based approach towards achieving the goals.

10. The delegate from South Africa, expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement, reaffirmed the importance of the right to development, including at the regional level, in accordance with article 22 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The right provided critical guidance to the process of development as States worked towards the goal of an international order and social justice in which all human rights could be fully realized. In the context of the disruptive effects of globalization, international cooperation and adjustment of the rules of international trade and financial institutions were necessary. The 2030 Agenda, which embodied and gave content to the right to development presented both an opportunity to and an obligation on all States. The responsibility for social development entailed sharing of responsibilities by all relevant actors, including the corporate sector. Regarding the Declaration, there still remained a significant gap in the protection of the global poor; the Government of South Africa looked forward to participating in activities to ensure that the global poor were given due attention. Going forward, there was an urgent need for the United Nations human rights machinery to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority issue through the elaboration of a convention on the right to development.

11. The delegate from Sri Lanka highlighted the need to maintain the momentum of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development and recommended that the Working Group focus on fully achieving its mandate while working towards finalizing the draft criteria and subcriteria regarding the right to development as expeditiously as possible. In striving for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, should pay attention to the human rights aspects of development. Realizing the Goals remained a high priority for Sri Lanka in its endeavour to achieve inclusive and equitable economic progress and social advancement.

12. The delegate from Nicaragua, expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement, stated that the right to development was inalienable and indivisible. The full realization of the rights of all peoples to self-determination and the attainment of that right and the right to development through the relevant human rights instruments, while maintaining the right to benefit from their natural resources was emphasized. The right to development was essential to eradicating poverty despite the significant headway already made in that direction. Nicaragua was committed to working internationally to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and unilateral coercive measures that denied the right to development.

13. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, stated that the right to development should not be associated with charity and generosity. The Sustainable Development Goals were mutually reinforcing in relation to the right to development. The right to development was not negligible and favourable conditions for its realization had to

be put in place. International cooperation was essential for that. In line with article 10 of the Declaration on the Right to Development, there must be a comprehensive and legally binding instrument on the right to development.

14. The representative of India stated that the right to development, despite the mixed treatment by the United Nations human rights mechanisms, remained important for an overwhelming majority of the global population. Nationally owned development needed to be complemented by equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level. There was a need to reinvigorate the mainstreaming of the right to development and that would not be possible without a strong political will and the sustainable commitment of the international community.

15. The delegate from Cuba, expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement, noted that the right to development was universal and inalienable and belonged to individuals and peoples. The main obstacles to the right to development were economic crises and inequality in international trade. With the political will of developed countries, much could be done for the realization of the right to development. Cuba was opposed to any attempt to reinterpret the right and underscored the importance of its operationalization, in particular through the elaboration of a convention on the right to development.

16. The delegate from China stated that the right to development was a right for all and an integral part of human rights. In the context of sluggish economic growth and unconventional threats, the right to development would be faced with daunting challenges. States had a primary obligation to implement the right to development. It was hoped that all parties would demonstrate political will and commitment and play a constructive role.

17. The representative of Nepal stated that, together with the 2030 Agenda, an international cooperation mechanism could ensure the provision of appropriate means and resources to foster sustainable and broad-based development in poorer countries. To bridge the gap of rising inequality, commitment was needed to refine the draft right to development criteria and operational subcriteria so as to advance towards an international legally binding instrument.

18. The representative of the Philippines, expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement, noted that the right to development affirmed the centrality of the human person. The right to development provided an enabling environment for the 2030 Agenda. Development processes had to be inclusive and just, and States must be able to go beyond charity. Through constructive engagement by the Working Group, progress could be made towards achieving those goals.

19. The delegate from Egypt, expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the African Group, stated that, despite the significance of the right to development, it had yet to be fully and truly realized. The 2030 Agenda placed the right to development at its core. Egypt supported the proposal that the Working Group should advance towards an international legally binding instrument on the right to development.

20. The delegate from Indonesia, expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, noted that a non-politicized and non-confrontational approach should be taken in the context of the right to development. Indonesia would engage with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and urged other Member States to do so as well. Policy coherence and international cooperation were equally essential.

21. The delegate from Tunisia, expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group, reasserted that there was a need to set up mechanisms to monitor the work relating to the right to development. The right to development should be free from controversy so as to make the world a more prosperous place for every person. Mechanisms conducive to an international enabling environment for the implementation of the right to development and the 2030 Agenda were needed.

22. The representative of Pakistan, expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, considered that the standards for the implementation of the right to development (A/HRC/WG.2/17/2), prepared by the

Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group, covered all the broad consensual categories and elements enshrined in the Declaration on the Right to Development. Those standards could serve as basic policy guidelines and pave the way for the establishment of a normative framework. The myriad problems faced today required a multifaceted approach by States, internally, externally and collectively, including a gender-based approach, quality education, equitable and preferential market access, technological advances and support for debt servicing, which could help to establish a fair and human rights-sensitive economic and financial order.

23. The representative of Algeria, expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Group and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, noted that social and economic stability was important to ensure not just the needs of present generations, but also of future generations. The Working Group should focus on international cooperation and solidarity in relation to the right to development and the need to work on new approaches to realize the right.

24. The representative of Brazil stated that the Working Group had to conclude unfinished business and make progress with deliberations in order to be more relevant to the discussions on development, especially the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda placed people squarely at the centre of development, just like the right to development, international cooperation and the removal of obstacles to development. The profile of the right to development had to be raised, including by mainstreaming it in the work of the Human Rights Council and the United Nations system as a whole.

25. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated that, without the realization of the right to development, enjoyment of all other human rights could not be attained, and that it required the development of an adequate international legal framework in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Unilateral coercive measures against countries in the Global South impeded peoples from advancing towards full sovereignty and development, thereby violating basic human rights. The world economic crisis created by the capitalist system, the denial of resource and technology transfer and the foreign debt burden all impacted on the implementation of the right to development.

26. The delegate from Ecuador, expressing agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement, stated that a genuine global partnership was needed that would make it possible to restructure relationships between developed and developing countries and to address the unfair distribution of wealth, reform discriminatory and perverse power structures, establish an independent and transparent international mechanism to manage sovereign debt, promote fiscal justice, clamp down on tax evasion and havens and advance towards a binding instrument on business and human rights.

27. The delegate from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, expressing agreement with the European Union, stated that the United Kingdom fully supported the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights. The right to development required the full realization of civil and political rights and the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights, in addition to credible development policies and good governance. The United Kingdom was not in favour of an international legal standard of a binding nature on the right to development. It was fully committed to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals, both at home and around the world, and considered the agenda a framework through which the world could combat the most pressing challenges of our time.

28. The delegate from the United States of America stated that the United States was committed to international development as a critical element of its foreign policy. The United States considered that there was a strong link between human rights and development. However, for several reasons, it has long-standing concerns about the concept of the “right to development”, in terms of definition and how it has been framed. For those reasons, it had consistently expressed objection to references to “the right to development” in General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions, and had serious reservations with respect to the direction of the related work and had made several proposals. Although it fully agreed that changes were necessary, because of those and other concerns that it had expressed in several previous Working Group sessions, and which have yet to be

adequately addressed, it did not consider that further engagement in that session would be productive.

29. The representative of the South Centre reaffirmed its conviction of the need for systemic reforms in the international finance and economic systems. The full realization of previous commitments made in relation to the internationally agreed goals were crucial to providing developing countries with the necessary finance and technologies to support their efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The realization of the right to development was the driving force in their implementation. Although the 2030 Agenda was universal, the representative highlighted that key principles such as the common but differentiated responsibilities were a central issue.

30. The representative of Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, speaking on behalf of the Geneva-based Forum of Catholic-inspired Non-governmental Organizations,<sup>3</sup> stated that the benefits of development had so far not been fairly distributed and that Governments must move from rhetoric to action and urgently honour their political and financial commitments to development. The Working Group should play an important role in the forthcoming High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development by contributing to the monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with the principles and content of the Declaration on the Right to Development. It was hoped that the inhibiting polarization and politicization of the debate on the right to development would cease.

31. The representative of the Indian Council of South America referred to the huge gap between the principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Right to Development and the actual realization of the right. The Council supported inclusion of the voices of all peoples in the development of an international instrument on the right to development. There were many bilateral and multilateral State and corporate agreements that did not recognize the right to development and therefore violated the rights of peoples.

32. The representative of International-Lawyers.Org referred to its projects to promote the right to development in academic circles in African countries. All States could cooperate in solidarity with each other to achieve a legally binding instrument on the right to development. Achieving that goal would provide significant impetus to furthering the implementation of the right by making it a legal obligation in a treaty. There was a need to agree on the core principles and to create a mechanism with the authority to ensure its implementation.

33. The representative of the World Federation of Trade Unions remarked that the right to development had a specific content to workers worldwide, in terms of decent work, workplace conditions that were safe and hygienic, protection of labour rights and the right to strike. It was noted that the right to development depended on the satisfaction of the contemporary needs of workers and without that, enjoyment of the right would be not be guaranteed for those facing poverty and vulnerability.

34. The representative of Hope International noted that, despite the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, a lot still needed to be accomplished through the Sustainable Development Goals. Even with good practices and academic contributions, results were still very unequal and international cooperation was not effective. It was not advisable to approve a new treaty or resolution without action corresponding to reality. Further discussion and work within the treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council was called for.

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<sup>3</sup> The members of the Forum include Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Association Points-Coeur, Caritas Internationalis, the Company of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco — Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, the International Movement of Apostolate in the Independent Social Milieus (MIAMSI), New Humanity, the Teresian Association and VIDES International — the International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education, Development. All statements made by the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII in the present report are made on behalf of the Geneva-based Forum.

## **B. Report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development**

35. The Chief of the Right to Development Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) introduced the report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development (A/HRC/33/31). The report, submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 30/28 and General Assembly resolutions 48/141 and 70/155, contains an overview of the activities of OHCHR relating to the right to development over the period from May 2015 to June 2016, and a discussion on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the right to development. The annexes to the report contain key messages from OHCHR on human rights and financing for development and on human rights and climate change, which have been widely used in advocating the integration of human rights and the right to development in those important processes.

36. OHCHR carried out several activities to promote the right to development, including many to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, such as the publication of a fact sheet entitled “Frequently asked questions on the right to development”<sup>4</sup> and the production of a short video entitled “The right to development — development is a human right”.<sup>5</sup> In addition to advocating the integration of the right to development into the financing for development, climate change and sustainable development processes, OHCHR sought to mainstreaming human rights, including the right to development, into United Nations system policies and operational activities and engage cooperation. To conclude, the report highlighted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was informed by and grounded in the right to development and that follow-up and review of the implementation of the Goals provided a solid basis for assessing the progressive realization of the right to development.

37. OHCHR launched its Human Rights Appeal 2017 in February 2017. The Appeal provides a succinct overview of the fundamental challenges that the world will face in the foreseeable future and spotlights the efforts that OHCHR plans to undertake to address those challenges. OHCHR committed to support Member States in meeting their commitments and obligations in relation to the 2030 Agenda. As requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 33/14, the High Commissioner’s next annual report will include an analysis of the implementation of the right to development, taking into account existing challenges and making recommendations on how to overcome them.

38. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, recalled the requests to the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to integrate the right to development into the work of the United Nations system and appealed to OHCHR to bolster the work necessary to mainstream the right to development and support developing countries in developing relevant policies. That required allocation of necessary resources and cooperation with States in order to remove any stumbling blocks to achieving the right to development. Concern was expressed about the scheduled dates for the next session of the Working Group, which coincided with other important intergovernmental human rights meetings.

39. The representatives of South Africa and Pakistan expressed agreement with the Non-Aligned Movement and stressed that more needed to be done to ensure the fulfilment of the right to development. They mentioned that the right to development-based approach had contributed significantly to promoting the inextricable nature of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. On the contrary, the United Nations human rights system had yet to adopt through an intergovernmental process a human rights-based approach to development. They noted that the report of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner was heavily slanted on that approach. They also noted that the report did not address concrete and

<sup>4</sup> Available from [www.ohchr.org/EN/PublicationsResources/Pages/FactSheets.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/PublicationsResources/Pages/FactSheets.aspx).

<sup>5</sup> See <https://www.youtube.com/embed/pdKfypBTdI>.

specific activities on the promotion and realization of the right to development, but rather linked the right to development to various meetings which did not focus solely or specifically on the right to development. In that regard, clarity was sought on the disjuncture between the mandate entrusted to OHCHR and the reality on the ground. It was recommended that specific emphasis be given to capacity-building, technology transfer and sharing of best practices.

40. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that a report on the right to development should not only focus on factual advancements, but should also have an analytical section with a development focus and recommended that the next report provide an approach for implementation and best practices.

41. The Chief of the Right to Development Section of OHCHR commented on the dates for the sessions of the Working Group and explained that the meeting calendar, including the allocation of conference rooms and services, was coordinated by the United Nations Office in Geneva. With regard to the report and the need for more clarity and content, he stated that it was not possible to include extensive details on the substance of all the events and activities owing to word limit restrictions. However, the Secretariat continued to make available detailed information on the OHCHR website. Regarding the remarks about analysis and the overall content of the report, he stated that the Secretariat reported on the comments and recommendations made by Member States and other stakeholders as endorsed in the relevant Human Rights Council and General Assembly resolutions.

### **C. Contributions by States on the implementation of the right to development**

42. The representative of Indonesia stated that it had placed the right to development at the centre of its development policies, including national and local development planning. The 2030 Agenda had also been mainstreamed into national development planning and a legal and institutional framework with national and subnational guidelines for implementing the right to development had been developed. In terms of more specific measures, Indonesia had an advanced smart health card intended to provide households in a lower socioeconomic bracket with greater support. Sustainable Development Goal 17 calls for revitalized partnership and cooperation and Indonesia was committed to working together with other States for the implementation of the right to development.

### **D. Informal consultations by the Chair-Rapporteur**

43. The Chair-Rapporteur informed the meeting about the informal consultations he had held in the intersessional period with regional and political groups and other stakeholders.

44. In July 2016, the Chair-Rapporteur participated in the interactive segment on combating discrimination and inequalities of the General Assembly high-level thematic debate on human rights, in New York, in which he underlined the linkages between discrimination, inequality and development. In September 2016, he presented the report of the Working Group on its seventeenth session (A/HRC/33/45) to the Human Rights Council and held informal consultations with the coordinators of regional and main political groups active in the Working Group and with representatives of intergovernmental organizations and civil society. In October 2016, he presented the report of the Working Group to the Third Committee of the General Assembly and had an interactive discussion with the members of the Committee along with informal consultations. He met with, *inter alios*, the Group of 77, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Deputy Head of the European Union delegation, the coordinator of the Western European and other States Group, the delegation of China, the Head of OHCHR in New York, the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the representative of the World Bank to the United Nations, as well as representatives of civil society. He also participated as a panellist in the side event organized by OHCHR in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development. It was generally affirmed by all those with whom he met that the

2030 Agenda represented an important opportunity to revitalize and implement the right to development. In particular, the importance of Member States' accountability for the international dimension of the right to development and the need for the development of indicators to measure progress in that regard were highlighted. Some suggested that more attention be paid to particular topics, such as taxation, public-private partnerships, financing for development, global governance, access to medicines, intellectual property, technology transfer and climate change. In December 2016, the Chair-Rapporteur participated as a panellist in a panel discussion organized by the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan.

45. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Ecuador asked the Chair-Rapporteur to elaborate on some of the reactions of the various stakeholders with whom he had met. The Chair-Rapporteur responded that, in principle, everyone supported the work of the Working Group. He stressed the underlying need for coordination between the Secretariats in Geneva and in New York regarding the 2030 Agenda and how it connected to the right to development. The positions expressed by the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement were broadly the same as the views expressed by the Working Group. With the World Bank representative, he stressed the need for more proactive engagement on the part of the Bank in the deliberations of the Working Group. At the panel discussion organized by the Geneva Centre in December 2016, participants supported the right to development and the synergy between the Working Group and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The more the Working Group was able to integrate its work with the 2030 Agenda, the better the chances of success would be.

## **E. Interactive dialogue on the implementation and realization of the right to development**

46. The interactive dialogue on the implementation and realization of the right to development and the implications of the 2030 Agenda, including possible engagement of the Working Group with the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was composed of two panels.<sup>6</sup> The panellists and topics in the first panel were: Vicente Yu, Deputy Executive Director and Coordinator, Global Governance for Development Programme, South Centre, on the implications of the SDGs for the realization of the right to development; Flavia Piovesan, Special Secretary for Human Rights, Ministry of Human Rights, Brazil, on the right to development perspective for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals; Olivier de Schutter, Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on the extraterritorial legal obligations of States and the responsibility of business enterprises for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; Maria-Luisa Silva, Director, United Nations Development Programme, Geneva Office, on the role of UNDP in the implementation of the SDGs and the right to development; Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, Globalization and Development Strategies Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, on from hyperglobalization to a global new deal: rethinking the right to development.

47. Mr. Yu highlighted the need to look at the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the Declaration on the Right to Development in relation to examining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He emphasized the duty of States to implement the right to development and identified four key challenges: the global economy in crisis; climate change; the increase in new global pandemics; and the advent of automation and increasing use of digital technologies with disruptive effects. All of those challenges were caused by human beings and the solution rested on the global community. He emphasized the need for international cooperation as a key element to enable developing countries to address the Sustainable Development Goals. The right to development and the Sustainable Development Goals were part of a global discourse to ensure that humans had a decent

<sup>6</sup> Transcripts of the experts' presentations are available from [www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/18thSession.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/18thSession.aspx).

standard of living and livelihoods. He hoped that the Working Group would look to enhance coherent and effective international cooperation in the light of those challenges.

48. Ms. Piovesan spoke about the advancement of a human rights-based approach to development and a right to development approach for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and highlighted three key components of the right to development and their impact and influence on the 2030 Agenda: social justice and participation; accountability and transparency; and international cooperation. Contemporary challenges of the right to development included the development of indicators to measure the implementation of the right to development; the adoption of an international treaty for the protection of the right to development; ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the reform of international financial institutions; promoting international cooperation; stimulating action by private actors; and consolidating best practices. The implementation of the right to development involved challenges of a legal, cultural, political and economic nature and in such an increasingly complex arena, it was crucial to move ahead in the affirmation of the right to development and global justice and to compose a new architecture to respond to those challenges.

49. Mr. de Schutter talked about improving the regulation of transnational corporations and the key role it could play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in terms of poverty reduction and promoting prosperity, the theme of the High-Level Political Forum in 2017. He noted that, while increased levels of foreign direct investment flows to developing countries could make a contribution to the fulfilment of human rights, in general, and to the right to development, in particular, whether or not foreign direct investment would have such a positive impact overall depended on the nature of the strategies deployed to attract investment. It was therefore key to ensure that the environment in which businesses operated supported, rather than undermined, the right to development, as increasing foreign direct investment could only be a means to an end, not an end in itself. A reading of Sustainable Development Goal 17 informed by the right to development required the creation of an international environment in which countries faced fewer incentives to resort to beggar-thy-neighbour policies in order to attract foreign investors. Improved international assistance and cooperation for the regulation of investors had a major role to play. He referred to the state of play of business and human rights within the United Nations and indicated that the Guiding Principles on business and human rights appeared to set the bar below the current state of international law in the area of extraterritorial obligations, in particular the duty of States to control the corporations they were in a position to influence. The Working Group could most effectively contribute to the High-level Political Forum by advocating for access to effective judicial remedies for victims and ensuring the primacy of human rights over investors' rights and suggesting that investment frameworks and promotion regimes explicitly take into account the duties of States to comply with international human rights.

50. Ms. Silva spoke about the three-pronged approach advocated by United Nations Development Programme that was aimed at ensuring that no one was left behind when it came to living with dignity and inclusion. MAPS, which stands for Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support, was adopted to provide Member States with coherent and integrated support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. There was a need for policy, programmatic and advocacy support on the Sustainable Development Goals and to internalize them into national development plans, measurement and reporting. A four-pronged policy strategy was needed at the national level, including the use of universal policies, pursuing measures for groups with specific needs, resilient human development and empowering those left out. The support of the Working Group could be useful in identifying practical examples, good practices and means of support to ensure that the right to development remained rooted in efforts to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

51. Mr. Kozul-Wright stated that the right to development had added a very strong normative dimension to the development agenda. While the right to development might be considered as faith based, the Sustainable Development Goals added a transformative, universal and inclusive dimension to the development agenda. Post-war economics was

poorly understood and the current hyperglobalization had created extreme inequalities. Neither the right to development nor the Sustainable Development Goals provided a counternarrative. Only by looking back at history could a global “new deal” be brokered based on past experience. Giving as example, Franklin D. Roosevelt’s 1944 economic bill of rights, he proposed three elements on which to build a rights-based development agenda, namely reflation, regulation and redistribution, and they must be part of the conversation on rights. The big question in the current international architecture was what components of those elements were needed to address the challenges of inequality, instability and stagnation in the current global “new deal”?

52. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of the Non-Aligned Movement, the European Union, Ecuador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Brazil, Pakistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Bangladesh took the floor, followed by the representatives of Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, South Centre, International-Lawyers.Org, Indian Council of South America and World Trade Organization. Comments and issues raised included the overall implementation, in terms of the right to development, extraterritorial obligations and coordinating international efforts to achieve development as a common goal. A development dimension must be added to any human rights discussion and mainstreaming of the right to development had to be increased. Some stressed that the 2030 Agenda was not a substitute for the right to development, while others referred to policy fragmentation at the national level and the need for binding instruments on the right to development and on business and human rights. Other issues raised included the root causes of injustice, how to link Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies to disarmament, self-determination and support for the process of how best to ensure that the right to development was mutually supportive of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

53. The panellists underlined the need for a constructive agenda to build a more deliberative economy, including more South-South cooperation, and defending policy space for developing countries. A development approach to human rights was required. Some called for a governance report to combat systemic issues, considering implementation problems as market failures in a deep sense. Recommendations on developing a binding instrument on business and human rights included strengthening States’ duty to protect human rights by controlling transnational corporations, creating a framework convention with reporting obligations, developing an instrument imposing direct obligations on corporations and an instrument on mutual legal assistance.

54. The panellists and topics in the second panel were: Yoke Ling Chee, Director of Programmes, Third World Network, on financing for development as a means for eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity from the right to development perspective; Xigen Wang, Professor, Vice-Dean of Wuhan University Law School, on eradicating poverty and the role of the right to development; Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples, Chad, on climate change, the right to development and the rights of indigenous peoples; and Idriss Jazairy, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, on unilateral coercive measures as an obstacle to the realization of the right to development.

55. Ms. Chee spoke about the common but differentiated responsibilities that were more relevant today in the struggle to balance the universality of long-term intentions and goalposts in the international community within the reality of today’s deeply imbalanced and asymmetric world. The principle captured the trinity of universality, differentiation and responsibility that was the foundation of the 2030 Agenda. In financing for development, although there was regression in structural analyses and substantive commitments, earlier outcomes had been reaffirmed. However, major developed countries were unwilling to move on the substance, considering it too early to assess implementation progress. The Working Group should ensure that systemic issues were not diluted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Although noting the encouraging signs of the re-emergence of human rights action by civil society and the private sector, she emphasized that the global partnership and financing for development were State responsibilities and could not be substituted with private sector action. A genuine and balanced global partnership would enable people and institutions to monitor the common but differentiated

responsibilities of all actors and prohibit, rather than perpetuate, global obstacles. Existing human rights norms provided a common set of standards and could be a useful yardstick for assessing policy coherence for sustainable development.

56. Mr. Wang considered eradicating poverty as the greatest global challenge, which was indispensable for sustainable development. In order to effectively achieve that goal, innovations in ideas, systems and action plans from the perspective of integrating poverty reduction, human rights and development were necessary. The value of eradicating poverty must be optimized based on the spirit of the right to development and constructing a pluralistic and adaptable poverty reduction action model, which could be chosen by any country, was crucial. He suggested eight action models. Regarding the reform of the poverty governance system, he suggested five steps that the United Nations and the international community should take, emphasizing that the legal principles and the legal rights and obligations relating to poverty reduction should be taken into account.

57. Ms. Oumarou Ibrahim drew attention to the serious challenges that Africa faced in terms of climate change and gave the example of impacts in the Lake Chad basin, at the heart of the Sahel. Impacts on the environment and on people were terrible. The adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015 was not enough; people needed real and concrete action; real rain and real climate protection. While development was a fundamental right, it should not be at any price. Indigenous peoples needed their land, natural resources and rivers for their daily living and livelihoods. Sustainable development should respect the environment and the peoples who depended on it. Investment in technological development was being made to the detriment of development in health and education. Respect for indigenous rights could also be a positive factor for tourism. Indigenous peoples were demanding that all partners, in both the public and private sectors, make clear commitments to include indigenous peoples in all development programmes. The inclusion of indigenous peoples in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would be an essential strategy for States to adopt as it would ensure that no one is left behind. Putting forward economic and pragmatic arguments to highlight the benefits that could be obtained by implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was necessary to show that indigenous peoples were part of the solution. Providing them with the space to get their voices heard would enable them to play an effective role in sustainable development.

58. Mr. Jazairy highlighted that unilateral coercive measures went against the spirit of the Declaration on the Right to Development, article 7 of which provides that the resources released by effective disarmament measures be used for comprehensive development, particularly in developing countries, and article 3 asserts that States have a duty to cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. General Assembly resolutions 2625 (XXV) and 3281 (XXIX) and Human Rights Council resolution 33/14 recognized the international responsibilities of States to cooperate with each other to create conditions favourable and eliminate obstacles to the realization of the right to development. Unilateral coercive measures constituted exogenous obstacles to the right to development and undermined the attainment of equal opportunities. The Security Council monitored the human rights impact of its sanctions and adjusted them as necessary, but no similar systematic review and adjustment was done for unilateral coercive measures. Furthermore, many instruments, including the 2030 Agenda, were ambiguous or vague in the prohibition of unilateral coercive measures, while people were dying from the impacts of the denial of some of their entitlements under the right to development. There was consensus that joint international action was needed to address the adverse human rights impact of unilateral coercive measures. In the context of the right to development, priority consideration should be given to stopping the adoption, maintenance or implementation of all unilateral coercive measures that could undermine the basic entitlements — eliminating poverty and hunger, ensuring healthy lives, inclusive and equitable quality education and gender equality — which were the key components of the right to development.

59. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of Chile, the Non-Aligned Movement, China, Pakistan, South Africa, Ecuador, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela took the floor, followed by the representatives of Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII and International-Lawyers.Org. Many interventions

focused on opposition to unilateral coercive measures and their implications on the right to development and advocated for deep changes to ensure conditions were favourable to developing countries. Speakers emphasized the need for a people-centred approach to the 2030 Agenda and reiterated the need for common but differentiated responsibilities and policy coherence. Some emphasized that poverty eradication was a key element to the right to development and a multifaceted issue that required an institutional response. Sustainable Development Goal 17 should be considered as a cross-cutting priority and synergies must be created where cooperation was lacking. Global stocktaking was suggested as a way of taking the 2017 session of the High-level Political Forum forward. Financing for development must be considered as an issue to be addressed by the United Nations, and the Working Group had to assume an important role in the Forum.

60. The panellists stressed that leaving no one behind was a basic minimum commitment in the right to development. Unilateral coercive measures must not harm people and the right to development should provide guidelines on how to avoid unilateral coercive measures. In terms of development, a real partnership between developing and developed countries was needed and innovation in all areas was emphasized for poverty reduction. There was a need to bring justice back, consistent with the human rights framework, through a network of goals and human rights mechanisms had a lot of experience with global stocktaking that could be built upon by the High-level Political Forum for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, human rights inputs must populate the discussion on the right to development at all levels.

61. To conclude the interactive dialogue, the Chair-Rapporteur noted the high level of convergence and complementarity among the presentations and in the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals and the right to development. The adoption by consensus of the Sustainable Development Goals provided the best way forward in the implementation of the right to development. Many issues, such as the development of a binding legal instrument or how unilateral coercive measures were tackled, were reflective of the difficult work carried out by the Working Group. However, the essence of what was required for the effective implementation of the right to development was political agreement and if that was possible with frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals, Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement, it was also possible in relation to the right to development.

## **F. Standards for the implementation of the right to development**

62. The Working Group followed up its consideration of the report on standards for the implementation of the right to development (A/HRC/WG.2/17/2) that was prepared and presented by the Chair-Rapporteur at its seventeenth session further to requests by the Working Group at its sixteenth session and the Human Rights Council in its resolution 30/28.

63. The representative of the Non-Aligned Movement presented a draft set of standards regarding the implementation and realization of the Right to Development (A/HRC/WG.2/18/G/1). The representative explained that the proposed standards drew on the work of the high-level task force on the right to development criteria and operational subcriteria and the provisions of the Declaration on the Right to Development and were in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

64. In the ensuing discussion, the delegate from Japan said that Japan supported the importance of development as one of the basic rights of individuals, regardless of whether they lived in developing or developed countries. However, Japan was unable to support the right to development as being the exclusive right of developing countries. It was underlined that the right to development should not be the subject of a legally binding instrument. Japan reserved its position on the proposed set of standards submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement and emphasized its willingness to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Non-Aligned Movement. Japan was particularly concerned about standards 3 and 9.

65. The delegate from the European Union stated that it reserved its position on the Chair-Rapporteur's report on standards for the implementation of the right to development

as it was not open to negotiation as such. The European Union was not in favour of the set of standards proposed by the Non-Aligned Movement, but would be open to engage in discussion on that. The delegate from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed serious concerns with the set of standards proposed by the Non-Aligned Movement and did not see it as a credible basis for discussion as it did not take into account the divergent views of the different member States. The United Kingdom was also disappointed with the procedure followed.

66. The representative of the Non-Aligned Movement said that the proposed set of standards had been submitted in February 2016 and the idea was to open up a debate to seek common positions within the Working Group and it was hoped that specific comments would be made on the proposals in the document. Many States supported the set of standards proposed by the Non-Aligned Movement and it would welcome more constructive progress and engagement on them.

67. The representative of Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII presented and circulated a non-paper on the set of standards with the view to making progress in the deliberations. The non-paper contained four sections on the principles identified in the Declaration on the Right to Development, obstacles to an enabling international and national environment, the proposed standards according to agreed language and sources. It was hoped that the document could be a useful reference for facilitating the discussion.

### **G. Consideration of the draft right to development criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria**

68. The Working Group continued its consideration of the draft right to development criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria prepared by the high-level task force (A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2, annex). In its previous session, the Working Group completed a second reading of the draft criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria and recommended that consideration of the criteria and subcriteria be completed by its nineteenth session in 2018.

69. The representative of the Non-Aligned Movement distributed a non-paper aimed at finalizing the consideration of the criteria and subcriteria. The non-paper was based on the criteria and subcriteria submitted by the high-level task force and integrated the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda that were agreed by consensus by the Member States. The non-paper was not a substitute for the work carried out to develop the criteria and subcriteria, but rather a tool aimed at moving the discussion forward. It was intended to help to progress the negotiations and support the Working Group in completing the work. The representative of the European Union noted that more time would be required to make concrete suggestions and proposals on the non-paper.

70. The Chair-Rapporteur noted that not much progress was being made in the work under that agenda item and that they were unable to engage in a constructive dialogue. He stated that if that persisted, the work of the Group would not only stagnate, but it would also have to consider other alternatives to make progress. He appreciated the efforts made to try and find common ground in that context, especially the consideration of the language of the Sustainable Development Goals as a way of building consensus.

## **IV. Conclusions and recommendations**

**71. At the final meeting of its eighteenth session on 7 April 2017, the Working Group adopted by consensus the present conclusions and recommendations, in accordance with its mandate as established by Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72.**

**72. In his concluding remarks, the Chair-Rapporteur expressed disappointment at the lack of progress during this session of the Working Group. His concern was echoed by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni**

XXIII, speaking on behalf of the Geneva-based Forum of Catholic-inspired Non-Governmental Organizations. The latter expressed the hope that civil society organizations would be allowed to participate during the informal consultations to be organized pursuant to the recommendations adopted by the Working Group.

## A. Conclusions

73. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to all those who contributed to the proceedings of its eighteenth session.

74. The Working Group welcomed the presence of the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights at the session and took note of her opening remarks, in which she reiterated the full support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Working Group and for the full realization of the right to development.

75. The Working Group welcomed the re-election of the Chair-Rapporteur and commended him for his able stewardship in guiding the deliberations during the session.

76. The Working Group welcomed the events held to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development in 2016, including the side event and panel discussion on mainstreaming human rights with an emphasis on the right to development at the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council, the panel discussion on the promotion and protection of the right to development at the thirty-second session of the Council, and the high-level segment of the General Assembly on the right to development, held at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

77. The Working Group expressed its appreciation for the interactive dialogue on the implementation and realization of the right to development, including the implications of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a possible engagement with the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

78. Following the completion of the second reading of the draft right to development criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria during its seventeenth session, the Working Group recognized with appreciation the preparation by the Secretariat of a conference room paper compiling the comments and views submitted by Governments, groups of Governments, regional groups and stakeholders on the draft right to development criteria and operational subcriteria (A/HRC/WG.2/18/CRP.1).

79. The Working Group took note of the set of standards regarding the implementation and realization of the right to development that was proposed by the Non-Aligned Movement (A/HRC/WG.2/18/G/1) as well as the non-paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement containing further contributions aimed at finalizing the criteria and subcriteria (A/HRC/WG.2/18/CRP.1).

80. The Working Group took note of the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the right to development for a period of three years (see Human Rights Council resolution 33/14), whose mandate includes, contributing to the work of the Working Group with a view to supporting the accomplishment of its overall mandate, taking into account, *inter alia*, the deliberations and recommendations of the Working Group, while avoiding any duplication. It looks forward to his work.

81. The Working Group took note of the report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development (A/HRC/33/31), while recognizing that more relevant concrete activities relating to the promotion and realization of the right to development needed to be undertaken by the High Commissioner and his Office.

## **B. Recommendations**

82. **The Working Group recommended:**

(a) **That the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and his Office take sufficient measures to ensure a balanced and visible allocation of resources and pay due attention to the visibility and effective implementation and mainstreaming of the right to development by systematically identifying and undertaking tangible projects dedicated to the right, and that he continue to update the Human Rights Council and the Working Group on progress in that regard;**

(b) **That the High Commissioner include in his next annual report an analysis on the realization and implementation of the right to development, taking into account existing challenges and making recommendations on how to overcome them and concrete proposals to support the Working Group in fulfilling its mandate;**

(c) **That the Working Group, in its future deliberations, consider the contributions made by States at the national, regional and international levels to the implementation of the right to development and on the implications of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by organizing a panel discussion including, inviting panellists to reflect on their relevant national, regional and international experiences in that regard;**

(d) **That the Working Group invite the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, in consultation with Member States, to provide his views on the work of the Working Group and its relevant agenda items, at its nineteenth session;**

(e) **That the Chair-Rapporteur present the report of the eighteenth session of the Working Group to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in order to promote engagement between the Working Group and the Forum with a view to ensuring synergy and integration of the right to development in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.**

(f) **That the Working Group, as requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 33/14, continue to consider the criteria and operational subcriteria (A/HRC/WG.2/18/CRP.1), with a view to finalizing the text as expeditiously as possible, preferably no later than its nineteenth session.**

(g) **That the Working Group further consider the set of standards for the implementation and realization of the right to development.**

(h) **That the Chair-Rapporteur convene informal consultations, as and when required, with a view to advancing the elaboration of the documents referred to in (f) and (g) above, prior to the nineteenth session of the Working Group.**

## Annex

### List of participants

#### States Members of the Human Rights Council

Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

#### States Members of the United Nations

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Benin, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine.

#### Non-member observer States

Holy See, State of Palestine.

#### Intergovernmental organizations

European Union, International Development Law Organization, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, South Centre, World Trade Organization.

#### Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

##### General

Centre Europe — Tiers Monde (CETIM), International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Hope International, World Federation of Trade Unions.

##### Special

Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International-Lawyers.Org, International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, New Humanity, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme (RADDHO).

##### Roster

Association of World Citizens, Indian Council of South America (CISA).