



**South Centre Statement to the 2nd Session of the Expert Mechanism on the
Right to Development
11-12 November 2020
General Debate**

Mr. Chair,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the commitment of the international community to make the right to development (RtD) a reality for everyone, leaving no one behind, and building peaceful and inclusive societies on the basis of the respect of human rights.

The right to development becomes prominent during and in the aftermath of facing the COVID-19 pandemic. The creation of favorable conditions for international, economic, scientific and technological cooperation, including technology transfer and know-how, is part and parcel of the right to development through the promotion of the well-being of all peoples, the improvement of the economic conditions of the developing countries and bridging of the economic gap.

Mr. Chair,

The discussions on this expert mechanism on the right to development have a tremendous opportunity to consider the right to development as a mechanism for facing the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also for building better and more resilient societies.

This will require not only strengthening States' cooperation to enable timely and adequate supply, to all and on an equal basis, of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines for COVID-19 as essential public goods, but also combatting against poverty and economic social gaps. Facilitating the realization of the process of development¹ includes not only the objective of contributing to “the efforts of developing countries to solve their social and economic problems [...]”² but also

¹ Arjun Sengupta, “Right to Development as a Human Right”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 36, No. 27 (Jul. 7-13, 2001), pp. 2527-2536.

² United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/54/175 (15 February 2000)



the promotion of “equitable economic relations and a favorable economic environment at the international level [...]”³ on the basis of sovereign equality, interdependence, mutual interest and co-operation among all States, as well as to encourage the observance and realization of human rights.

This includes harnessing the potential of South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South Cooperation, while keeping in mind the Addis Ababa Action Agenda call for increasing Official Development Assistance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The right to development provides an important basis for the development of public policies and international process towards the full enjoyment of human rights and, inter alia, the protection and preservation of our planet and the reduction of poverty and inequalities. While consolidating it as a right by itself, notably through negotiation of a legally binding instrument, the RtD may play an important role in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you Mr. Chair.

³ United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/54/175 (15 February 2000)