



**Statement during the Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur
on the right to development**

48th regular session of the Human Rights Council

South Centre

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Thank you very much Madam President,

The South Centre, as an intergovernmental organization composed by developing countries, welcomes the Report prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development considering Climate Action at the National Level.

As rightly pointed out by the Special Rapporteur, the Declaration on the Right to Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Agreement, should not be construed as aspirational objectives, but as essential elements of public policy making towards building a better and resilient future for all.

The effective recognition of the right to development (RtD) could provide an important basis for the development of public policies and international cooperation towards facing the multifaceted challenges arising from climate change. In the same line, we welcome the experiences shared by member States about the development of climate action initiatives they have adopted based on efforts towards facing the challenges and threats arising from climate change and environmental degradation.

Reducing global greenhouse emissions while respecting the fundamental rights of the people as well as addressing adverse impacts of climate change requires identifying those who will suffer the most because of climate change and environmental degradation, consider their vulnerabilities and needs.

Therefore, fundamental human rights principles should be streamlined through the design, implementation and monitoring of climate actions, considering the inclusiveness and participation, engaging in collaboration



with grassroot communities and vulnerable groups at all levels of public decision-making.

Likewise, given the significant role that the private sector plays in the world economy, greenhouse gas emissions and in the exploitation of natural resources, it is important to continue the negotiations for the adoption of a legally binding instrument on business and human rights, while promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) through the activities of business enterprises.

We agree with the Special Rapporteur on the need to strengthen international cooperation. We strongly recommend that climate action cannot be limited to national actions but require an enhanced action in an effective and appropriate international response in accordance with developed and developing countries' common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The experiences shared in the report, the majority of which have been established by developing countries, are a clear example of the reason why South-South cooperation can play a key role in this regard, through the exchange of relevant experiences, good practices, and the provision of innovative solutions for tackling the unique challenges faced by developing and least developed countries while addressing the effects of climate change.