



Statement

General Debate – Item 3

54th regular session of the Human Rights Council

South Centre

21 September 2023

Thank you Mr. President,

The South Centre appreciates the presentation of the thematic reports, and the reports of the Working Groups on the Right to Development and Private Military and Security Companies.

The effective implementation and reinvigoration of the right to development, including through the elaboration of a legally binding instrument, can strengthen national sustainable development efforts and international cooperation for ensuring the full realization and enjoyment of all human rights. We reiterate our appreciation to the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development for their efforts towards achieving this goal.

Advancing the effective implementation of the Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas through the establishment of a special procedure would be a welcome outcome. It would serve as an important example of how international cooperation and dialogue can improve human conditions and support the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of all human rights. We commend the Mission of Bolivia for leading this process.

These efforts come at a juncture where the world is facing new challenges for the protection of human rights. For example, the recently established mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change, has signalled the need to establish new procedures for the promotion and protection of human rights to face the current polycrisis that particularly affect peasants, agricultural workers, rural women and people living in poverty.

The South Centre will continue supporting developing countries for the achievement of these objectives and the provision of innovative solutions for tackling the unique challenges faced by developing and least developed countries.