



**Statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development**

**54<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Human Rights Council**

**South Centre**

**20 September 2023**

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Thank you Mr. President,

The South Centre, as an intergovernmental organization of developing countries, welcomes the annual report presented by the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development.

We would like to express support to the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, highlighting that international cooperation and solidarity among States are indispensable means to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration of the Right to Development.

The multiple ongoing global crises have widened the current global inequalities in income, technology and financial capacities, among and within countries; as well as the capacity to achieve the Sustainable Development and the full implementation of the Right to Development. The polycrisis have also shown clearly the lack of resilience of developing countries to external shocks as well as gaps and weaknesses of the global economic and financial systems.

We welcome the completion of the five thematic studies by the Expert Mechanism. The South Centre has actively supported the preparation of the reports, in particular on Sustainable Development Practices in International Investment Agreements in the study on the right to development in international investment law.

The South Centre is keen to continue collaborating in the preparation of future studies. In particular, the South Centre is in a unique position to support the work of the Expert Mechanisms in the preparation of their studies on South-South and triangular cooperation, climate justice, women's participation and inclusion, and artificial intelligence. We will provide recommendations and inputs on the measures needed to further enhance and mainstreaming the right to development on these issues.