



Statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development

54th regular session of the Human Rights Council

South Centre

20 September 2023

Thank you Mr. President,

The South Centre, as an intergovernmental organization of developing countries, welcomes the report prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development on his vision for reinvigorating the right to development.

While the right to development is well-recognized and internationally endorsed, its effective implementation has been at a low ebb in recent times, with the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing polycrisis posing significant challenges. However, the reinvigoration of the right to development, especially in developing and least developed countries, can be an important means to support their efforts towards sustainable development and to realize all other human rights, including through reducing poverty, hunger and inequality.

It is important to recognize that the effective implementation and reinvigoration of the right to development can strengthen national sustainable development policies and international cooperation for facing current global challenges and ensuring the full realization and enjoyment of all human rights. Further, the international community should endeavour to refute any misconceptions about the right to development and seek to reduce any polarization on this issue.

The 2030 Agenda at its halfway mark remains largely off-track and has even seen a regression in the achievement of some targets. The UN Secretary-General has warned that while lack of progress is universal, it is the world's poorest and most vulnerable who are experiencing the worst effects of these unprecedented global crises. The effective realization of the human right to development can help support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as both are complementary to each other. However, the

full implementation of the human right to development cannot be time bound and must reflect an ongoing effort to ensure that all peoples and communities can fully and equitably share in the benefits of sustainable development. South-South cooperation can also play a key role in this regard, while being complementary and not a substitute to North-South cooperation.

We thank the Special Rapporteur once again for considering the research undertaken and inputs provided by the South Centre in his report, and would like to reiterate our strong support for his important work and mandate.