



Statement to the 25th Session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development

13 – 17 May 2024

Thank you Chair.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

The South Centre, as the intergovernmental organization of developing countries, has supported the efforts of its member States from all regions of the Global South for the realization of the human right to development (RtD).

We thank you Mr. Chair for all the hard work that you and the Secretariat have made to advance the agenda of this Intergovernmental Working Group on Right to Development. We also welcome the efforts of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, Prof. Surya Deva and look forward to his upcoming reports on the nexus between the right to development, climate justice and loss and damage; and on the right to development of children and future generations. We commend the efforts of the Expert Mechanism of the Right to Development in considering the practical implementation of the right to development at the international, regional, and national levels.

We also express our appreciation of the important role that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has played in promoting the concept of RtD and consensus building. At the 19th NAM Summit held in Kampala, Uganda in January 2024, NAM Member States clearly affirmed their commitment towards ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development as an inalienable, fundamental and universal right, and as a comprehensive part of the universally recognized human rights.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Declaration on the New International Economic Order (NIEO), which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 1 May 1974. This Declaration serves as a call to the international community to engage in the comprehensive

reform of the existing architecture for global governance on international finance, trade and development ; so that it produces equitable outcomes for all. It also paved the way for the 1986 Declaration on the right to development, which recognised development as a human right.

Today, as many developing and least developed countries face a ‘perfect storm’ of crises on various fronts, the realization of the RtD is ever more important. There is a tangible link between the RtD and sustainable development, with their achievement being mutually reinforcing. At the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda, it remains distressing to note that many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remain woefully off-track. The upcoming Summit of the Future in September thus provides an important opportunity to place the RtD at the core of efforts to guide sustainable development in the future.

It is also evident that we need to increase efforts at the national, regional, and multilateral level to effectively realize the RtD. In our view, promoting a better understanding of the RtD and advancing its effective realization can help mitigate some of the worst impacts of the triple planetary crisis and build resilience in countries and communities. This Working Group is in a remarkable position to provide a platform that allows for the exchange of views and to build the common understanding necessary to move forward.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance to encourage and mobilize the participation of all stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, civil society, and academia, especially those from the global South, for the effective realization of the RtD. Broader engagement and participation by all stakeholders would improve awareness of the RtD as well as provide evidence on the practical challenges in the implementation of the RtD.

Finally, we reiterate the continued commitment of the South Centre to you Mr. Chair and this Intergovernmental Working Group to support efforts towards the full and effective realization of the Right to Development.

Thank you very much.