

62nd Session of the Human Rights Council

DRTD@40 and Sustainable Development Agenda

Youth Perspectives on the Right to Development in the Global South

DATE	TIME	VENUE
3 July 2026	12:00 - 13:00	Room XVI, Palais des Nations

Background

Marking 40 years since the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development (DRTD), this side event provides a platform for youth voices from the Global South to articulate their understandings, priorities, and critiques regarding the future of development.

The DRTD, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1986, remains a landmark instrument recognizing development as an inalienable human right. As the international community navigates the DRTD@40 initiative, negotiations for a legally binding instrument, and the framework succeeding the 2030 Agenda, youth perspectives remain critically underrepresented.

Youth in the Global South — the largest generation in history — face structural challenges including digital divides, unequal access to technology transfer, systemic debt distress, and limited policy space for industrialisation. This event aims to ensure their insights contribute to a forward-looking, inclusive, and action-oriented interpretation of the Right to Development that promotes systemic reform and intergenerational justice.

Objectives

1. Amplify youth perspectives on structural economic reform and digital sovereignty.
2. Bridge normative RTD frameworks with lived experiences of development.
3. Inform multilateral processes including DRTD@40 commemorations.
4. Encourage intergenerational dialogue for systemic reform.

Programme Agenda

12:00 - 12:10	Opening Remarks	Pia Oberoi (OHCHR), Daniel Uribe Teran (South Centre)
12:10 - 12:30	Youth Panel	Moderator: Srruthi Elango. Panelists: Triana Gil Rana Nur Aydin, Christopher de la Torre Garzon, Raphaëlle Delcayrou
12:30 - 12:50	Interactive Discussion	Audience, Member States, UN mechanisms
12:50 - 12:55	Closing Reflections	David Fernandez Puyana (UPEACE)

Guiding Questions

1. How can the Right to Development evolve to address post-2030 realities?
2. What structural challenges do youth in the Global South face in realizing their right to development?
3. How can youth participation in multilateral development processes be strengthened?
4. What roles can youth play in accountability and policy reform?

Expected Outcomes

1. Increased visibility of youth perspectives in RTD discourse and HRC processes.
2. Actionable recommendations for integrating youth priorities into the post-2030 agenda.
3. Strengthened institutional linkages between youth networks, OHCHR, and multilateral bodies.

Join us in shaping the future of the Right to Development.

