



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

## **Written statement\* submitted by Institute of Sustainable Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[5 February 2024]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Respecting the Right to Development of Developing Countries**

### **Introduction**

We would like to emphasise that it is crucial to respect the right to development for developing countries and to recognise it as a fundamental pillar in the pursuit of global justice and equality. The assessment of the challenges and achievements of the right to development shows that while this right is a significant goal, there are many challenges alongside the successes.

We, the members of civil society, strongly believe that the right to development is an inherent right of every individual and every nation. It is important to recognise and respect the different paths that countries take on their development journey, taking into account their unique historical, cultural and socio-economic contexts.

We believe that respect for the right to development entails the promotion of equality and non-discrimination. It requires concerted efforts to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries and to ensure that the benefits of progress are shared equally among all. On the other hand, respect for the right to development requires a commitment to social inclusion and the preservation of cultural diversity. Policies and initiatives should honour and protect the richness of cultures in developing countries and ensure that development processes are inclusive and respect cultural identities.

It is worth noting that we emphasise the importance of robust international cooperation and support in promoting the right to development. Joint efforts, including technology transfer, knowledge sharing and financial support, are essential for creating an enabling environment for sustainable development.

Development must be consistent with the principles of environmental sustainability. Promoting sustainable economic practises is not only an ethical imperative, but also a strategic approach to preserving the planet for present and future generations.

Furthermore, empowering local communities is central to upholding the right to development. Policies and initiatives should aim to strengthen the capacities of individuals and communities and ensure their active participation in the development process.

We recognise that conflict is an obstacle to the right to development and are therefore in favour of increased efforts to prevent and resolve conflict. Sustainable development can only flourish in regions that are free from the devastating effects of armed conflict and instability. Respect for the right to development is consistent with our unwavering commitment to international human rights instruments. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We recognise the importance of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development, which recognises the right to development as a comprehensive right to development. In line with our commitment to the right to development, we actively pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the 2030 Agenda. These goals provide a framework for inclusive and sustainable development and emphasise the importance of leaving no one behind.

In line with these international legal frameworks, we emphasise the indivisibility and interdependence of human rights and recognise that the right to development is an integral part of the broader human rights agenda. To this end, we propose the following:

## Suggestions

1. **Strengthening institutions and governance:** Building sound institutions and effective governance structures is critical to upholding the right to development. Transparent and accountable governance fosters an environment in which human rights are protected and development initiatives can flourish.
2. **Tackling global health problems:** Current global health problems underscore the interconnectedness of our world. Respecting the right to development involves common approaches to tackling health inequalities to ensure that all nations have equal access to essential health services.
3. **Commitment to humanitarian aid:** We reaffirm our commitment to providing humanitarian assistance to countries affected by crises. The right to development cannot be realised without addressing urgent humanitarian needs and supporting countries in times of natural disaster, conflict or health emergencies.
4. **Promoting technology transfer:** In promoting the right to development, we advocate for improved technology transfer mechanisms. Facilitating the exchange of technological advances between industrialised and developing countries promotes innovation and accelerates sustainable development.
5. **Capacity building and skills development:** Investing in capacity building and skills development is critical to empowering individuals and communities. By providing training and education opportunities, we can ensure that people are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to actively participate in the development process.
6. **Establishing fair trade practises:** Promoting fair trade practises contributes to equitable economic development. We call for international efforts to remove barriers to trade and ensure that developing countries have fair access to global markets in order to promote economic growth and reduce poverty.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding the right to development for all nations. We call on the Human Rights Council to maintain its central role in promoting measures to advance global co-operation, equality and sustainable development. By working together, we can create a world in which the right to development is upheld and the dignity of every individual and every nation is respected.

Emphasises the need to respect the right to development for developing countries in its address to the Human Rights Council. The Declaration emphasises the recognition of inherent rights, equality and non-discrimination and calls for robust international cooperation and support. It advocates sustainable economic practises, the empowerment of local communities and social inclusion. It emphasises the importance of cultural diversity, institutional strengthening, conflict prevention, tackling global health challenges and humanitarian aid. The commitment to human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Declaration on the Right to Development, and the focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and the climate agreements are reaffirmed. The Executive Summary summarises the Institute for Sustainable Development's commitment to upholding the right to development in accordance with international legal frameworks and human rights principles.

Finally, as members of civil society, we call on the Human Rights Council to intensify its efforts to create a global environment in which the right to development is recognised as a universal and incontestable right. By embracing these principles, together we can advance a world where prosperity, dignity and justice prevail for all.