



Prince Claus Chair Roundtable

27 May 2015

at

The Hague Institute for Global Justice, The Hague

Theme: Thinking Ahead: The Right to Development Approaching 30

Concept Note

The human right to development is a right to a particular process of development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. - Arjun Sengupta

A High-Level Roundtable on the theme *Thinking Ahead: The Right to Development Approaching 30* will take place on 27 May 2015 at the Hague Institute for Global Justice. This Roundtable will comprise a dialogue between a select number of internationally renowned experts in the field of public international law, international human rights law and development.

Background

In December 2016, the world will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development (UNDRTD). In the run-up to this event a flurry of activity might arise around this topic. Heightened interest in the Right to Development (RTD) is certainly desirable. However, inevitably it also draws our attention to the fact that since 1986 the efforts to fully establish this human right have had debatable levels of success.

The UNDRTD conceptualizes development in a wholistic manner, as a phenomenon and process that has economic, social, cultural and political dimensions it places the human person squarely as the central subject of development. In broader terms, i.e. much beyond the UNDRTD, the shift from an economic to a multiple-natured and human-centred development process is a welcome progression.



Concerning the RTD, there are still doubts as to the exact nature and extent of the entitlements and duties that it generates, and in terms of accountability and justiciability. Within multilateral and bilateral international cooperation, including in the framework of the United Nations (UN) system, progress in implementing the RTD has been hindered by conceptual ambiguity and political considerations from both developed and developing states.

It would be useful to explore whether there are ways to revitalise the RTD, for example by developing more pragmatic approaches or identifying alternative means. This Roundtable seeks to generate concrete and innovative recommendations on how the RTD could be pursued with new vigour today and in the future. Renowned international experts in this field have accepted our invitation to contribute ideas on the above-mentioned agenda, based on the insights they gained in their particular field of expertise. The selected areas of focus for this programme include implementing the Right to Development as it pertains to the environment, health, and education. We seek rigorous analysis on topical developments in these areas primarily as they pertain to public international law. We will also consider implementation of the RTD through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 Agenda. Furthermore, the current efforts of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the revitalization of the Right to Development in recent times will be highlighted and discussed.

Roundtable Objectives

- To review the continued relevance of the Right to Development as conceptualized in the UNDRTD;
- To reflect on how the Right to Development can be revitalized and implemented so as to equitably meet the developmental and environmental needs of peoples everywhere;



- Presented papers will be compiled to form part of an edited volume to disseminate the ideas of the invited experts in the field, and will be published by a reputable international academic publisher.

The Prince Claus Chair

The Prince Claus Chair in Development and Equity was established in the Netherlands in early 2003 by Utrecht University and the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in honour of H.R.H. Prince Claus of the Netherlands (1926-2002), and his work in the field of development and equity throughout the world.

Professor Olajumoke Oduwole, a lecturer in the Department of Jurisprudence and International Law of the Faculty of Law of University of Lagos, Nigeria, was appointed holder of the Prince Claus Chair (2013-2015) in September 2013 by the ISS, and is co-sponsored by The Hague Institute for Global Justice (THIGJ) and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). Her work as Prince Claus Chair focuses on the nexus between international law and the implementation of the Right to Development in West Africa.