

Submission in follow-up to HRC resolution 15/25 “The Right to Development”

Intervida

The Declaration on the Right to Development configures the right to development as an inalienable human right and conceives development as a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process which aims at improving living conditions and well-being whole population and individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development process and the sharing of benefits arising from it. Right to development also entails the full realization of the right to self-determination and full sovereignty of peoples over their natural resources. These principles come into the concert of the interdependence and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms and will build on the principle of international cooperation embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

We can say that the right to development is an individual right in principle and in purpose and that is collective in its implementation. We could consider that the primary responsibility for the Right to Development is the state, which must create favorable conditions for the development of peoples and individuals. However, in a globalized world economy and to the glaring gap between developed and poor countries, the onus is really on the entire international community.

THEREFORE

- I) There should be a balance between national and international responsibilities in addressing the right to development. International community and especially rich and hegemonic countries or coalitions should avoid inconsistent policies and work on an agenda to reach an enabling international environment for impoverished countries to achieve the right to development. National responsibility is undeniable but in an interconnected world international responsibility is incontestable. Creating the conditions to break the circle of dependence is capital. More participatory approach and equality-base mechanisms in decision-making in international arena should be developed.
- II) Needless to point out that debate on the implementation of the right to development is not the same as the debate on aid effectiveness. Nevertheless, the initiative of donor countries now have equated the two, thus avoiding the broader discussion of what should be the goals of development and avoiding to define what the rich countries are willing to accept their obligations or responsibilities in the development of other countries.
- III) The link between human rights, development and poverty having been broadly recognized, the declaration on the right to development should have been the guideline to formulate MDGs. The declaration should be at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals UN Summit, *20-22 September, New York*. It is imperative to place human rights at the center of all efforts and to revise the mechanisms of accountability. And these mechanisms should apply both to states that have legal responsibility, as multinational corporations, responsible for gross violations of human rights that do not have legal responsibility.

- IV) We agree with the statement that right to development is a way of improving the well-being of the human person. There is no development without human rights and human rights are beneficiaries and primary actors in the fulfillment of the right to development. Therefore, greater space and voice should be given to OSC.
- V) Criteria and sub criteria should be submitted not only to governments but also to international organizations, civil society and academia. A dialogue between all stakeholders should happen since the criteria can pave the way to redefine policies and practices. Inputs from civil society and academia are of paramount importance.
- VI) We would support actions to advocate in favor of a legally-binding instrument on the right to development. We would agree on working for a frame of reference for the evaluation of the right to development as suggested by Friedrich Ebert Foundation.
- VII) Intercultural approach on human rights in the work of the task force should be taken into account.