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**The 20th session of the Working Group on the Right to Development**

**29 April-3 May 2019, room V, PdN**

**Agenda item 4.4**

**Interactive dialogue with experts on the implementation and realization of the right to development, including the implications of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Tuesday, 30 April 2019, 10:00-13:00 and 15:00-18:00**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development foresees that “Thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, will also take place at the high-level political forum. These will be supported by reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them. They will engage all relevant stakeholders and, where possible, feed into, and be aligned with, the cycle of the high-level political forum” (A/RES/70/1, para. 85).

Furthermore, the General Assembly encouraged coherence of intergovernmental bodies with the work of the high-level political forum towards the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/299, para. 15).

In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that the theme to be reviewed by the high-level political forum in 2019 would be “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".

The set of goals to be reviewed in depth are:

* Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
* Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
* Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
* Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
* Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The review includes Goal 17, which is considered annually:

* Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

In order to support the above process, the Working Group, at its last session, recommended, and subsequently the Human Rights Council endorsed, a request to the High Commissioner to facilitate the participation of experts in the twentieth session of the Working Group, to provide advice with a view to contributing to discussions on the implementation and realization of the right to development, including the implications of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/HRC/RES/39/9).

The objective of the meeting is to contribute to the discussion on the integration of the right to development in the implementation of the SDGs and synergy between the Working Group and the mechanisms and processes established in follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



There will be two sessions. The morning session will discuss the implementation and realization of the right to development and the implications of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The afternoon session will focus more specifically on the theme of the 2019 high-level political forum, which is “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, discussing the role of the right to development in this regard.

The interactive dialogue will emphasize goal 17 and the means of implementation targets under the above-mentioned goals. As such, it will also contribute to the Financing for Development follow-up process.

**Morning session (10:00-13:00)**

Vicente Yu (Coordinator of the Global Governance for Development Programme, The South Centre)

*Contemporary challenges for the realization of the right to development and the SDGs*

Regina Asariotis (Senior Legal Affairs Officer and Chief of the Policy and Legislation Section (Trade Logistics Branch), Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD)

*Progress and obstacles in international trade for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

Raúl Torres (Counsellor, Development Division, WTO)

*Mainstreaming trade to attain the SDGs*

Sanya Reid Smith (The Third World Network Geneva)

*A civil society perspective on the potential of trade for achieving sustainable development*

**Afternoon session (15:00-18:00)**

Susan Mathews (Human Rights Officer, OHCHR)

*Potential and pitfalls of digital trade for development in Africa*

Meskerem Geset Techane (Member of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice)

*Eliminating discrimination against women – a legal duty and enabler for achieving the SDGs*

Chiara Mariotti (Inequality Policy Manager, Oxfam)

*Global inequality, the Achilles’ heel of the right to development*

Melik Özden (Director, Centre Europe - tiers monde)

*Why the right to development is crucial for empowerment of the people and their participation in decision-making on development policies*