**Office of The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights**

**Commentary and textual Suggestions**: Draft Convention on the Right to Development

**To:** Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development 21st Working Group Session

**Submitter:** Innovea Development Foundation

**Status:** NGO

**Topic:** Science, Innovation and Digital Rights and Transformation as rights to development

**Representative:** Samuel Adunreke **Date:** 20th August, 2021

The Right to Development have a significant role to play in the attainment and realization of economic, political and social independence of underdeveloped or least developed nations. The issues of underdevelopment in certain regions and continents had in the past been multi-dimensional in nature and as such requires a multidimensional approach to address. This calls for *“****aggressive intervention****”.* Having identified our peculiar problems and limitations, we can’t afford to undermine human development. It would be a great crime in humanity if some human population fall off the scale of development. With efforts of various International and Inter-Governmental Institutions globally like the United Nations and other agencies and International Development Organizations in participatory development in place, we have to put into consideration what research, sciences and innovation, and inclusive approach to digital rights has in place for us so that we would not be a victim of underdevelopment.

Hence, under the Part III and within Articles 8, 9 and 10 of The works of the Working Group on Rights to Development provides within the ***General Obligations of State Parties***, ***General Obligations of International Organizations***, and ***Obligations to Respect*** respectively to without prejudice accept or work in respect of obligations with regard to sustainable development. We may however interpret that the right to technology and innovation as tools to transmitting knowledge of Human Rights and Human Centered Development as well as right of nature be respected by Parties and Governments in other not to undermine the entire efforts of the role of rights to development.

The Right of self-actualization is no doubt as relevant as the Right to self-determination; a difficult development in the world today is that the whole world is ravaged by this negative development and arguments based on impediments on the duty to cooperate (Article 13) affecting development of underdeveloped Nations. Referencing Under article 13 section 2 the duty to cooperate: ***“To this end State Parties recognize their primary responsibilities for the creation of international conditions favorable to realization of the right to development for all and undertake, to take deliberate, deliberate and targeted steps, separately and jointly including cooperation within international organizations, and as appropriate in partnership with civil society”*** speaks for the independence of civil societies and NGOs to participate, seek cooperation for the purpose of progress through participation in International Development as long as the rights to development is not violated.

Notwithstanding, we have seen the important role of science, research and innovation plays through surviving the pandemic. This without doubt has exposed the weaknesses in National and Global Structures and in particular under the Obligation to Fulfil (Article 12).

The promotion of rights to development as adopted under the United Nations Human Rights Council states the right of global citizens to access development as needs that should be addressed. Under the considerations of the various international instruments for adopting the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda which affirms that The Sustainable Development must be achieved in three dimension of economic, social and environmental frameworks in such a manner that is balanced and with harmony with nature. Herein science and nature interrelates and is considered under paragraph (a) of draft article 3 Human persons and People-Centered Development. (OHCHR 2013).

The Relationship with the Right to self-determination as a matter of solidarity and synergies in interests of National or Regional Governments with International treaties, conventions and ambitions as it aligns with attainability of Sustainable Development Goals is important. With the realities of difficulties in fulfilling the ***obligation to respect*** the Right to Development, design of National Development Policies and Frameworks for policies and governance particularly in resonance with environmental and economic realities and they all have to be in tune with nature and be sustainable.

**Conclusion:**

The Right of self-actualization is no doubt as relevant as the Right to self-determination; and should be considered within the obligations and considerations under Human Rights.

It is equally significant and equally important that sustainable research, innovation and sciences is relevant to development and that we embrace these developments. We cannot be oblivious of the many benefits accruable to development which has its bedrock from research, sciences and innovation for social, environmental, human and political emancipation.

Hence, the call for the continuous education of State Parties, the inclusive participation of Civil Society, NGOs and Private Sector or Trade Institutions in the promotion of rights to development is as important as the Rights to Development and the protection of the rights of human inclusion in development planning; this we may opine as the right to knowledge.

**References**

What are Human Rights? (OHCHR) available at [www.ohchr.org/en/issues/pages/whaatarehumanrights.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/pages/whaatarehumanrights.aspx) .