Beijing Changier Education Foundation

Comment on the Draft Convention of the Right to Development:

Intersectionality is a framework that outlines the complex ways in which people face discrimination based on the combination of the different aspects of their identities. The OHCHR should consider including the concept in the draft convention because it can better describe the mission of the right to development: ensuring that every person can contribute and enjoy all human rights and liberties. Global issues, which are key targets of the RtD, stem from different categories of identity, such as race, class, or gender. **The right to development’s integrative and holistic nature directly reflects the intersectionality of these global injustices.**

The Beijing Changier Education Foundation, which is in special consultative status with the UN ECOSOC, targets AIDS/HIV prevention and sex education. Within our field, the concept of intersectionality is encapsulated by the various factors that affect our partnerships with developing countries and regions. For instance, though we’ve reached 27 provinces and cities within China, such success often hindered by the problem of Chinese culture labeling sex education as a taboo subject. **Our work at Changier is chiefly concerned with considering all issues simultaneously, mirroring the goals of the right to development.**

The right to development is essentially a cluster right that reinforces all other human rights. **Intersectionality describes the cross-section of, inter alia, health issues, gender inequality, sexuality discrimination, racial bias, and class inequality; this concept explains the interconnectedness between all human rights, which is the essence of the RtD.** Therefore, the draft convention could reap benefits from this slight revision.