**Austrian Contribution to the OHCHR Questionnaire for a consultancy study on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights**

ad Q 1. Please share your views on the contribution of development in promoting and protecting human rights, including its context, concept, specific aspects and means of implementation.

Contribution of development to:

(1) Civil and political rights.

(2) Economic, social and cultural rights.

(3) The right to peace, the right to development, environmental rights, and digital rights.

All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Development and human rights are interlinked, mutually reinforcing and complementary. These fundamental principles have been clearly endorsed by the international community large in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

The World Conference on Human Rights also recognized and affirmed that all human rights derive from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person, and that the human person is the central subject of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and consequently should be the principal beneficiary and should participate actively in the realization of these rights and freedoms.

While development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights.

As stated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, the human person is the central subject of development.

ad Q 2. How to ensure that development contributes to promoting and protecting human rights? (The principles, strategies, policies and laws, action plans and programmes of development, what contents are important and what responsibilities should be taken into account)

(1) At the international level.

(2) At the national level.

(3) Through global and regional partnerships, civic space and engagement.

The rights-based approach to development cooperation is based on the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of human rights and the principles of inclusion and participation in decision-making processes, inter-dependence and inter-relatedness, non-discrimination, equality, transparency and accountability. These principles are central to development cooperation.

In order for Development to be sustainable, the human being must be the main participant and beneficiary of development. Special emphasis should be given to measures to assist in the strengthening and building of independent and credible institutions relating to human rights, strengthening of a pluralistic civil society, the protection of groups, which have been rendered vulnerable, and the real and effective participation of the people in the decision-making processes.

ad Q 3. Please share any concrete examples of best practices of contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights. Challenges, obstacles, lessons learned and experience with regard to principles, strategies, law and policies, action plans and programmes, the role of communities, organizations, and individuals and/or other stakeholders.

As enshrined in Art. 10 of the Vienna Declaration, development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, however the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights. Sustainable and inclusive development cannot be achieved without respect for and protection of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance.

Consequently, in its development policy the EU and its Member States act in accordance with the principles of EU external action set out in Article 21(1) TEU: democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. These universal values and good governance are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. For more information on this, see

<https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf>

ad Q 4. Are there any other aspects relating to the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights for all that you would recommend for the study to focus on?

Para 6 of the Vienna Declaration states that *the efforts of the United Nations system towards the universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, contribute to the stability and well-being necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations, and to improved conditions for peace and security as well as social and economic development, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.*

*The report should also address the difference between on the one hand sustainable and inclusive development and on the other unsustainable development and the risks the latter can pose in terms of exacerbating inequalities and environmental degradation.*

*The report should also look into the importance of an independent and pluralistic civil society in ensuring that the human person is the main beneficiary of development*

ad Q 5. If you have differing views on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights for all, please explain and provide examples if possible.

Austria wishes to emphasize the fundamental importance we attach to universally agreed human rights instruments and documents such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and all the core international human rights treaties, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We are therefore concerned that resolution 41/19 constructs an unhelpful narrative, which elevates the process of development above human rights and contradicts universally agreed standards and globally endorsed values.