**UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**23rd session of the Working Group on the Right to Development**

**(16 – 20 May 2022)**

**EU General Statement, 16 May 2022**

Mr. Chairperson-Rapporteur,

Distinguished Delegates,

Dear Colleagues,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The EU and its Member States remain strongly committed to achieving sustainable and inclusive development, and to promoting the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all individuals without discrimination on any ground.

Mr. Chairperson-Rapporteur, the EU has and will continue to engage in this Working Group. Despite this, we must note that divergent views in the understanding of the Right to Development persist. The EU reiterates its position that the Right to Development is rooted in the universal, indivisible, interrelated, and interdependent nature of all human rights, the multidimensional nature of development strategies, and that individuals are the central actors, drivers, and beneficiaries of the development process. States have the primary responsibility for the full realisation of human rights. Furthermore, the EU promotes the reinforcement of a human rights-based approach to sustainable development, recognising that respect for human rights is a pre-condition for the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development.

The EU is not in favour of the elaboration of an international legal standard of a binding nature, and we do not see this as the appropriate or efficient instrument to realise sustainable development, especially considering the centrality of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in this regard.

While we remain ready to engage constructively with the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development, we wish to reiterate that we see consensus as the only way to achieve the desired universality and ownership. We would like to express our willingness to continue pursuing a consensual approach. However, we will not support the non-consensual work to elaborate a draft legally binding instrument that is not consistent with international human rights law. We ask for our views to be duly reflected in the conclusions and recommendations of this 23rd session.

I thank you.