**The twenty-third session of the**

**Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development**

**Statement by Japan**

At the outset, I would like to start by extending my sincere appreciation to Chair-Rapporteur for convening this meeting.

Japan remains fully committed to achieving sustainable and inclusive development including the eradication of poverty, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The SDGs seek to realize the human rights of all people, and as a country that places utmost importance on the protection and promotion of all human rights, Japan believes the primary obligation for ensuring the right to development lies with States. From this perspective, we underline the fact that the only entity capable of enjoying human rights is the individual. Therefore, Japan is not in favour of establishing a legally binding instrument, which may create a new form of collective rights.

There clearly remains a significant divergence of views among States on the issue of elaborating a legally binding instrument. Japan, maintaining its position, is not in favour of the elaboration of a legally binding instrument on the right to development, but emphasize the need for a unified approach to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. We will, therefore, continue to carefully listen to the different views expressed by other delegations.

Thank you, Chair.