Thank you Mr Chairperson rapporteur,

As we have said before in this working group, the UK is fully committed to both human rights and supporting sustainable development. We are a champion of agenda 2030 and we take our commitment to delivering 17 SDGs - both at home in the UK and abroad – incredibly seriously. We recognise the right to development as we recognise the indivisibility, interdependence and universality of all human rights.

However, similarly to my colleagues from the EU, we would once again like to make a statement to put on record our concerns about the proposed legally binding instrument.

As stated before, the UK, is not favour of the elaboration of a legally binding instrument, as we do not believe that it is the most appropriate mechanism to realise the right to development. Our fundamental concerns remain that:

1. States must not invoke a lack of development to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights.
2. We must not change the primary obligation of states as duty bearers.
3. Individuals must remain front and centre of right to development

The UK is not alone with these views. Many other countries share these concerns – yet these concerns are clearly not being heard or listened to.

The purpose of any treaty is to bring agreement among states on a way to address a problem. Given there is no agreement and in fact strong disagreements on the very need for a treaty – I would question how useful and valid any new instrument will be.

We remain open to discussing options on how best guarantee people’s the right to development and would encourage all regional groups to come together and listen to each other’s concerns.

Many thanks