

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA

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Report of the Working Group on the Right to Development

Statement by India

Madam President,

We welcome the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development and thank her for the presentation of the Report. India attaches much importance to the Right to Development, and we were privileged to have the late of Dr. Arjun Sengupta, whose contribution in furthering a rights-based approach to development has been noteworthy, as the Chairman of the Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Right to Development.

We note with pleasure the full integration of the Right to Development into all areas of the work of the UN system such as the follow-up to Least Developing Countries IV and UNCTAD XIII and United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. This could be the beginning of the way forward in the realization of the Right to Development.

Madam President,

As we prepare to celebrate 20 years of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 2013, it may be recalled that the Declaration had reaffirmed the Right to Development as a universal and inalienable right, as well as an integral part of fundamental rights. The international community should promote effective international cooperation for the realization of the Right to Development and the elimination of obstacles to its enjoyment. Effective implementation of the Right to Development requires an equitable, democratic and inclusive multilateral architecture where the interests of the peoples of all countries worldwide are taken into account and where donors and developing country governments can mutually agree on policies and priorities for development.

While no one can deny the national responsibility of States to promote the Right to Development, one cannot, equally, place an overemphasis on national responsibilities, in disregard of the imperative of international

cooperation, essential for the purpose of creating a supporting and conducive environment for the genuine realization of the Right to Development. Lasting progress towards the implementation of the Right to Development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level. A coordinated international effort is required to ensure that States establish, promote and sustain national and international arrangements that create an enabling environment for the realization of the Right to Development.

Madam President,

We believe that Development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, aiming at the content improvement of the well-being of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom. Development policy must recognize that the human person is the central object of the development process and should therefore make the human being the main participant and beneficiary of development.

Thank you, Madam President.