The 12th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda
Implementation of the Mandate and Programme of Work –
Consideration of Thematic Studies
Palais des Nations, Room XVI, Geneva

Launching EMRTD policy briefs

Wednesday 29 October 2025, 15:30–16:00

Introductory remarks
Presented by Bonny Ibhawoh

Please check against delivery

At our meeting yesterday, several delegates raised the point that it would be ideal if the studies of the Expert Mechanisms were made more accessible to States, civil society organizations and other stakeholders so that this information can be more readily used in the operationalization of the right to development and the promotion of the right to development. Well, I'm happy to say that this Expert Mechanism has done just that. The Secretariat has made policy briefs available on our website.

Some may wonder why we unveil policy briefs when we already have full reports. The Expert Mechanism has developed these policy briefs, like I said, in direct response to various stakeholders' requests for more accessible and condensed information about the studies elaborated by the Mechanism. Let me underline that policy briefs go beyond simply summarizing our thematic studies. They serve as a strategic tool to convey targeted recommendations to various audiences. They distill complex messages into tailored suggestions, such as policy measures for Governments, strategies for international organizations, and advocacy points for civil society and the private sector.

Again, something we heard yesterday and in our successive sessions that various stakeholders wanted the Expert Mechanism to provide easily accessible technical expertise and language for advocacy. Through this focused approach, each stakeholder receives practical, relevant and actionable recommendations and guidance, thereby enhancing the usability of the study's finding in real-world decision-making process.

I would like to say, just to add to that a lot of thought has gone into the preparation of these policy briefs. We've considered some of the needs of stakeholders. But in preparing these policy briefs, we have also solicited the views, the recommendations, and the advice of stakeholders as to what they would like us to include in these policy briefs. The preparation of these policy briefs is in line with the mandates of this Expert Mechanism, which is to provide tools for stakeholders to promote the right to development, provide best practices that can guide the decision making at a practical level.

We urge delegates to help socialize these policy briefs. We've made them accessible. I think the longest one of them is only three pages, most of them are 2 pages. But interestingly, they also have very clearly delineated sections that speak to actionable items for various constituencies. So, in a typical policy brief, you will find a section on what states should be doing on the subject matter of the thematic study, what civil society should be paying attention to, and what UN agencies should be considering in the context of the study. So, we urge delegates to help us socialize them within your various constituencies. We recognize that not all those who need and can use the language of the right to development have the opportunity or the privilege to sit in these hallowed halls. We are privileged to be here, and then ask of this Expert Mechanisms to you, as distinguished delegates, is to help take this message to those who are most in need of the information that we have provided in the study.

There is a QR code that you can scan that grants access to the policy briefs, and for those who would like to get more information on each of the policy briefs, there are direct links on the Mechanism website to the full studies. So, the hope is that these policy briefs would prompt a deeper dive into the studies that we have prepared. And I also want to use this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for preparing these policy briefs. All of this was done in house within the Secretariat, and I know there was some heavy lifting. So, I thank the Secretariat and all those involved in the design and the preparation of this policy brief, which I hope will become a tradition of the Expert Mechanism, a strategy of making our studies more accessible.

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