The Tenth Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Opening Statement

Ambassador Marcela Arias Moncada,

Vice-President of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 28 October 2024

Deputy High Commissioner,
Chair of the Expert Mechanism and members,
Distinguished delegates,

It is my privilege to open the tenth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development.

The Human Rights Council places great importance on the right to development and has repeatedly stressed the need to prioritize the operationalization of this right, including in its latest resolution on the right to development 57/19, adopted a couple of weeks ago at our 57th session.

As stated in the resolution, the right to development is universal and indivisible, interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing with other human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is vital for the full realization of the 2030 Agenda and should be central to its implementation.

In Resolution 57/19, the Human Rights Council recognizes that realizing the right to development requires addressing hunger, inequalities and poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as well as effective development policies at the national level. It also recognizes the need of effective international cooperation, equitable economic relations, and a favourable economic environment at the international level. In this connection, the Council stresses that the primary responsibility for

the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development lies with the States.

Human Rights Council resolution 57/19 further reiterates that equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation and international cooperation are core principles of the right to development and crucial to mainstreaming it at the national and international levels are. While equity and transparency remain importance in these endeavours.

Distinguished delegates,

During the interactive dialogue with the Chair of the Expert Mechanism, some weeks ago, the Human Rights Council listened with interest the presentation of the Mechanism' annual report and its thematic study on the individual and collective dimensions of the right to development. Member States welcomed the contributions made by the Expert Mechanism, its thematic studies including in particular the one presented on that day, as well as the Expert Mechanism's recommendations. Several Member States reiterated the interdependence between individual and collective rights, and the duty of States to find the balance in advancing both dimensions.

The exchanges held during the interactive dialogue highlighted the urgency and importance of making progress in advancing the right to development both nationally and internationally. Different Member States called for stronger international cooperation and solidarity to address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and triple planetary crisis, recognizing that collective efforts are essential to the realization of all human rights, including the right to development.

Other States focused on efforts towards inclusive and sustainable development which can only be achieved through the full and effective implementation of existing international human rights obligations, and by addressing multiple and intersecting discrimination.

Members of the Expert Mechanism

The Council recognizes the challenges that the Mechanism has faced in carrying out its mandated activities due to the budgetary uncertainties, and appreciates your continued dedication in advancing the Mechanism's work, including thematic studies, engagement in international conferences, and engagement with a wide range of Member States and other stakeholders. In this regard, the Council reiterates their support for the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development as it carries out its crucial mandate.

The Council looks forward to updates from the Mechanism on the direction and scope of its studies and engagement. We call on Member States, the United Nations system, human rights experts, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders to continue collaborating with this Expert Mechanism including support for their engagement with international conferences and country study visits.

I wish you all a successful tenth session.
Thank you.

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