



**Intervention by Sri Lanka at the informal inter-sessional meeting the Working Group  
on the Right to Development**

**16-17 February 2015**

Thank you Madam Chair,

At the outset, we express our appreciation for the efforts of the Chair-Rapporteur for her stewardship and contribution to the discussions of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Right to Development.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of NAM. As a co-sponsor of the resolution 27/2 on Right to Development, we welcome the organization of this informal intersessional meeting with a view to discuss possible ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of this Working Group.

We reaffirm that Right to Development is about mainstreaming and implementing development-oriented policies at all levels, in order to further improve the capacity of states to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights. We also believe that Right to Development as a collective and individual endeavour requires commitment at both national and international levels to achieve its full realization. It needs to be accepted as a basic right of all human beings.

It is a matter of concern that despite concerted and sustained efforts taken to eliminate obstacles to the realization of the Right to Development, the challenges to its realization in particular for developing countries still remain considerable due to the effects of international energy, food and financial crises, as well as the increasing threats posed by global climate change which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains, particularly in developing countries.

Madam Chair,

As we mark the 29th anniversary of the Declaration of the Right to Development this year, and with less than a year to reach the deadline for reaching the targets of the MDGs, it is indeed timely to reflect on a way to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of this Working Group as well as to consider ways and means to ensure the operationalization of the Right to Development as a priority.

While we welcome the completion of the first reading of the draft criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria, we are also concerned at the slow pace of progress in the Working Group on Right to Development.

In this regard, we expect that the new framework to be presented by the Chairperson-Rapporteur will not only contribute to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Working Group but also provide a new roadmap for this Working Group to achieve early completion of its mandate.

As stated in earlier discussions and our written submission to the Working Group, we reiterate that it is imperative that the Declaration on the Right to Development be the basis for further consideration, revision and refinement of the criteria and sub-criteria, in order to achieve real progress.

Sri Lanka also believes that strong political will based on international cooperation is necessary for the Working Group at this important juncture to successfully accomplish its mandate, and to evolve into a basis for consideration of an international legal standard of a binding nature through a collaborative process of engagement.

We are also of the view that ensuring adequate allocation of resources and due visibility of the right to development will be an imperative for a successful achievement of the mandate of this Working Group.

In conclusion Madam Chair, we wish the Working Group success in its deliberations and assure you of our support and constructive engagement.

Thank You.