



## 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

### Statement by Sri Lanka

#### Item 3 – Report of the IGWG on Right to Development

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka, at the outset aligns itself with the statement made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We thank the Chair-Rapporteur for presenting an oral update on the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Right to Development and commend his stewardship of the deliberations with relevant stakeholders during this Session.

We reaffirm the importance of establishing Right to Development as a collective and individual endeavour that requires commitment at both national, regional and international levels to make it a reality. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of the Right to Development in 2016 provides this Working Group a unique opportunity to demonstrate the political will and commitment to ensure operationalization of the Right to Development as a priority in the work of the UN.

Furthermore, being cognizant of the fact that in a few days the world leaders will be endorsing the ‘2030 Agenda for Global Action’ at the High-Level Segment of the 70 UNGA in New York, we believe that it is timely to reinforce our efforts to implement the Right to Development, as one of the three pillars of the UN among Peace and security as well as Human Rights. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that have been agreed upon by the Member States and the envisaged 169 Targets that will be negotiated and agreed in the course of next year, are milestones in the global development efforts that can have a critical impact on individuals as well as on entire populations. Our challenge is to ensure a smooth transition from MDGs to the SDGs while learning from past mistakes.

If we pursue a rights-based approach to the new development agenda when implementing its goals and targets, it will be more meaningful to the individuals as it gives a sense of ownership. Further, it would be a more pragmatic way to firm up our commitment to realize Development in a holistic manner, encompassing socio-economic, cultural and political well-being for humanity.

In the above context, we welcome the discussions by this Working Group on the Post-2015 development agenda in the context of the right to development, so that the work of

the Working Group can go in tandem with the agreed Post 2015 agenda envisaged in the document 'transforming our world' The 2030 Agenda for Global Action.

Moreover, it should be noted that the commitments mentioned in the post 2015 development agenda require interrelated and integrated action by the international community, when it focuses on five mutually inclusive areas of 'critical importance to humanity and the planet'. Therefore there is more reason for developing countries/ countries in the South to remain engaged even more actively in the process of realizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in partnership with the developed countries.

We believe that strong political will based on international cooperation should be the basis on which this Working Group should endeavour to successfully accomplish its mandate. We hope that the recommendations made by the Working Group regarding celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to development especially the recommendations on holding a high-level segment on the Right to Development during the General Debate at its 71st session and the Human Rights Council to dedicate its 2016 High-level Panel on Human Rights mainstreaming on the theme of the "Right to development", will inspire Member States to move forward with a sense of urgency and renewed vigour regarding the implementation of the Right to Development. We expect that these events will serve as good platforms to engage constructively and demonstrate their commitment to respond to the current global situation and discuss the most effective way forward to eliminate the obstacles that stand in the way of development, to translate our commitments into concrete action, and to create the conditions for the enjoyment of the inalienable right to development for everyone.

Mr. Chair,

Sri Lanka reiterates its support to the proposed Chair Rapporteur's set of standards for consideration by the Working Group to implement the right to development. We hope that the document to be prepared by the Chair would be without prejudice to the ongoing discussions on the criteria and sub-criteria, in the context of which the Working Group shall complete its second reading at its 17th session, and will contribute to the objective of elaborating a comprehensive and coherent set of standards for the implementation of the right to development.

Furthermore, in order to enhance its efficiency, we believe that this Working Group should re-focus on its full mandate as stipulated in the enabling resolution 1998/72. We also believe that extension of the meeting time of this Working Group in line with OP 11 of HRC Resolution 27/2 will be helpful. We also emphasize on the need to ensure

adequate allocation of resources and ensure due visibility to the right to development as a catalyst to successfully accomplish the mandate of this Working Group.

In conclusion,

While welcoming the progress made in this Working Group during the 16<sup>th</sup> Session, Sri Lanka reiterates that the realization of the Right to Development is a necessity for developing countries more than ever before, as the Declaration on the Right to Development celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the post-2015 Development Agenda is to be adopted.

Thank You.