



Statement by Sri Lanka
32nd Session of the Human Rights Council
Panel discussion on the promotion and protection of the Right to Development
Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to
Development
15 June 2016

Mr. President,

We welcome the convening of this Panel discussion on the promotion and protection of the Right to Development to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the 1986 UN Declaration on the Right to Development.

Sri Lanka aligns itself with the statement delivered by Iran in behalf of the Non- Aligned Movement (NAM).

One of the prime accomplishments of the Declaration was recognizing the Right to Development as *'an inalienable human right'*. The Declaration emphasizes a holistic approach to fully realize all human rights, civil, political as well as social, economic and cultural rights alike which ensure fundamental freedoms for everyone. It provides an alternative vision for the development of policy and global partnership, to advance the three pillars of human rights, development, and peace and security.

The adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which provides a comprehensive framework for development, being informed by the Declaration on the Right to Development, and the political commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (AAAA) and the Paris Climate Agreement provide new hope to realize this vision.

As the Declaration on the Right to Development celebrates its 30th Anniversary, it is indeed timely to reflect on ways and means to ensure the effective operationalization of the Right to Development. We reaffirm that the Right to Development, as a collective and individual effort requires commitment at both national and international levels to achieve its full realization.

At national level, Sri Lanka remains committed to ensure the Right to Development through its national development policies. Owing to Sri Lanka's long history of consistent investments in health, education and poverty alleviation programmes, the country has succeeded in achieving some targets in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (

MDGs), ahead of schedule.¹

At a global level, we believe that international cooperation is indispensable for addressing obstacles to development that are beyond the national capacity of States to tackle, such as extreme poverty, adverse effects of climate change, financial crises and unequal trade relations. In this regard, Sri Lanka believes that revitalizing global partnerships for sustainable development could play a significant role in creating an environment conducive for realizing the Right to Development. The developing countries too could contribute to this process by making efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation.

Sri Lanka also acknowledges the progress achieved so far, by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development, in concluding the second reading of the criteria and sub-criteria for realizing the Right to Development during its last Session. We appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Chairperson of the Working Group presenting a “Set of standards” for the implementation of the Right to Development, pursuant to the HRC resolution 30/28, which could be considered as a useful basis for further deliberations on the implementation and realization of the Right to Development. We highlight the importance of successfully accomplishing the mandate of this Working Group and moving forward in the elaboration of a coherent set of standards on the Right to Development, which could frame the basis for a legally binding instrument.

In conclusion Mr. President,

We believe that the momentum gathered at the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Right to Development should be sustained and built upon, to develop a stronger political will and consensus at the international level as an effective way forward to translate commitments towards concrete action in realizing this intrinsic right.

Thank You.

¹<http://www.ips.lk/index.php/8-news/1202-launch-of-the-mdg-country-report-2014-sports-ministry-auditorium-march-23-2015>