



27th Session of the Human Rights Council
Statement by Sri Lanka
Item 3 - Report of the WG on the Right to Development
12 September 2014

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 the presentation of the Report of the 15th Session of the Working Group on Right to Development and commend her stewardship of the discussion with relevant stakeholders. We also take note with appreciation the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner (A/HRC/27/27) and the work carried out by the OHCHR on the promotion and realization of the right to development within the UN system.

We reaffirm that the 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 believe that the Right to Development is a collective and individual endeavour that requires commitment at both national and international levels to achieve its full realization.

Effective international cooperation is essential to create a conducive environment to the realization of the right to development. In this regard, priority needs to be given to special needs of developing countries which are negatively affected by structural problems, external events and global economic and financial crises.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka believes that a rights-based approach to the post 2015 development agenda must first and foremost translate into a firm commitment to the Right to Development as the fundamental basis of Sustainable Development Goals.

Sri Lanka has a firm policy of integrating youth participation and mainstreaming youth perspectives in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The “Colombo Declaration of Youth” of the International Conference on Youth held from 6 - 10 May this year in Sri Lanka with the participation of UN and other multilateral organizations focused on a wide range of themes, including education, employment, entrepreneurship, technology and sustainable development. One of the objectives of this Conference is to facilitate effective partnerships with youth, youth-led organisations and youth movements to further strengthen inclusive youth participation in the decision-making processes and implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. President,

As Chair of the Group of Fifteen, a Summit level group of 17 developing countries aimed at fostering, promoting and sustaining the South-South cooperation, Sri Lanka attaches great importance to advancing supportive, fair and enabling global partnerships and actions for realising the MDGs and an ambitious post 2015 development agenda, including the SGDs.

In conclusion,

Welcoming the progress made in this Working Group, Sri Lanka reiterates that the revision and refinement of the criteria and sub-criteria should be based on the Declaration on the Right to Development.

We also believe that strong political will based on international cooperation is a must for this Working Group 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.

Thank you.