



Daughters of
Charity of St.
Vincent de Paul



30th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 14 September- 2 October 2015

Item 3 - General Debate: Oral Update of the OEIWG on the Right to Development

Joint oral statement

“The Intergovernmental Working Group on Right to Development: what for?”

Mr President,

APG XXIII and the co-signing NGOs actively participated in the resumed 16th session of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Right to Development.

We are pleased with the decision of the Working Group to proceed with the second reading of the draft criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria for the implementation of the Right to Development even if, we would have preferred to read all the criteria first and then their corresponding operational sub-criteria. We reiterate the need of improving the effectiveness and the efficiency of the Working Group.

We regret the deadlock that characterized again the resumed 16th session. After adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations two Member States expressed their reservations not recognizing the right to development in its wholeness. This is a matter of great concern to us and we would like to encourage States to join their effort to find consensus and move forward in the same direction.

Due to the high polarization, we noticed the attempt in the negotiating process to depart from the Declaration on the Right to Development as a constitutive document of the Working Group.

We reiterate that the Declaration on the Right to Development as per mandate of the Working Group, should remain the principal reference for the implementation of the Right to Development, and all the other past and future resolutions and documents are complementary but do not substitute it.

In fact, the Declaration on the Right to Development provides an integrated, holistic and cohesive normative framework for achieving just and equitable development for individuals and all people and addresses both the national and international dimensions of development.

Given the importance and urgency of the implementation of the right to development to all people and countries in the world, the Working Group should focus on what is the common good for all humanity, and speed up the process of refining the criteria and operational sub-criteria. In this regard, our NGOs call for an extension of the time allocated to the Working Group in the hope that such an intergovernmental body may still fulfil its mandate.

Finally, we welcome Ambassador Zamir Akram as new Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development wishing him well in his new and not easy endeavour.

Thank you