

Joint letter to advocate for the adoption of the draft international covenant on the right to development addressed to the diplomatic community in New York.

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned non-governmental organizations (NGOs), are writing to you to express once more our strong support for the adoption of the draft International Covenant on the Right to Development that has been submitted to the General Assembly for its further consideration, negotiations and subsequent adoption as Annex of the resolution A/HRC/54/L.27, which was adopted by the Human Rights Council during its 54th regular session held in September 2023.

2026 will mark the 40th anniversary of the Declaration on the right to development, yet such a right, despite its significance, has not received the attention and recognition it deserves in international law. The Draft International Covenant on the Right to Development aims to precisely address this gap by establishing a comprehensive framework for promoting and protecting it. It outlines the obligations of states to create an enabling environment conducive to the realization of this right, including measures to eliminate obstacles to development, promote equitable distribution of resources, and ensure meaningful participation of all individuals and communities in decision-making processes.

Together with many other civil society organizations, we have actively engaged all along in the negotiation process of the draft international covenant carried out by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the right to development, raising the voice of the voiceless, the socially disadvantaged and most vulnerable groups who immensely suffer due to the lack of implementation of this fundamental right.

The adoption of the draft international covenant on the right to development is crucial in the advancement of human rights on a global scale. For this reason, we reach out to you, Your Excellency, for the decisive role you play as representatives of your country at the United Nations.

By adopting this covenant, the United Nations' member States reaffirm their commitment to transforming our world and realize the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It would serve as a powerful tool for advancing human rights, social justice, reducing inequality, and empowering marginalized communities around the world. Furthermore, it would provide a realistic framework for international cooperation and assistance to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals, which will certainly be of great benefit also for developed countries, so that no one will be left behind.

With our world in turmoil where wars, conflicts, inequalities are on the increase and in light of the pressing global challenges we face today, including climate change and pandemics, it is ever more urgent to advance towards the objective of the right to development. The adoption of the International Covenant on the Right to Development would send a strong signal of solidarity and cooperation among nations in addressing global challenges and building a more inclusive and sustainable future for all.

We urge you to support the adoption of the International Covenant on the Right to Development. We strongly believe that its adoption would not only uphold the principles of human dignity and equality but contribute to the collective efforts to create a sustainable world where every human being has the opportunity to develop, fulfil their potential and work for the common good.

Thank you for the careful consideration you will give to this important matter and for the decisive action you will take in support of the adoption of the draft International Covenant on the Right to Development.

Sincerely,



Maria Mercedes Rossi
Main representative of APG23 to the UNITED NATIONS

On behalf of the following Non-Governmental Organizations accredited to ECOSOC:

Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)



Association Points-Cœur



AVSI



Caritas Internationalis



Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul



Dominicans for Justice and Peace



Edmund Rice International



Fundacion Promocion Social



IIMA



International Association For Human Rights Advocacy



International-Lawyers.org



International Society for Human Rights



MIAMSI



National Council of Catholic Women (USA)



New Humanity



OIEC



Sikh Human Rights Group



Teresian Association



UNANIMA



VIDES



VIVAT International



WUWCO

