

**SIERRA LEONE**

**32ND SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**PANEL ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

15 June 2016

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YVETTE STEVENS**

Mr President,

My delegation would like to begin by expressing its appreciation to the distinguished panellists for their respective presentations.

The Declaration of the Right to Development calls for development with a human face; development which ensures empowerment of all sectors of the population to participate fully and freely in vital decisions, as well as equal opportunities and the equitable distribution of economic resources.

It promotes the need for better governance of the international economic framework and considered the complex challenges States had to overcome when addressing the scars of colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination.

Thirty years on, the Declaration on the Right to Development is as pertinent now as it was then, as it was provides a good foundation from which countries can work and offers a normative framework whereby States acknowledge their primary responsibility to ensure that national and international conditions are favourable for the realisation of this right.

Sierra Leone is appreciative of the tireless efforts of OHCHR to create public awareness of the right to development, as we have seen through the short film and their booklet of frequency asked questions on the subject.

For thirty years, we have struggled to get the right to development accepted by all actors in the international community and we now have a chance at last. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda redefines, in a way, development as we knew it; it proclaims that “no one should be left behind”. In short, it endorses the right to development without explicitly saying it.

Access to resources remains a predominant concern. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides us with options for financing the 2030 Agenda, which could also be seen as means for ensuring that the right to development is attainable in all countries.

It is now incumbent on the human rights community to use this opportunity to make sure that the ideals of the right to development are covered through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

By way of conclusion, my delegation would like to ask the panellists what they perceive as the role of this Council in ensuring that the right to development is truly addressed in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you, Mr President.