



*Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the UN – Geneva*



Chair of the NAM

**NAM comments
on the Draft Framework of the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the
Working Group on the Right to Development to improve the
effectiveness and efficiency of the Working Group with a view to
accomplishing its mandate**

- The Non-Aligned Movement would like to express its gratitude to the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group for submitting the “Draft Framework to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Working Group on the Right to Development with a view to accomplishing its mandate” in accordance with the HRC resolution 27/2.
- The NAM has supported the work of the Working Group over the years and would continue to support its mandate. We note the strides made by the Working Group on the right to development over the past years. At the same time, it is a matter of concern that, after a long effort by the international community to realize the right to development, we still witness obstacles, emanating from improper work of the global economic and financial system. The challenges of our current world are becoming more complicated and that’s why, today, the realization of the right to development is a necessity more than ever.
- The international community must demonstrate its political commitment and give the right to development the high profile it deserves. This is an urgent demand, due to the slow pace of the discussion of this important issue, as a result of which the right to development has yet to be fully and



*Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the UN – Geneva*



Chair of the NAM

truly realized while almost three decade has been elapsed since the adoption of Universal Declaration on the Right to Development. Lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires, in particular, equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level.

- Recalling the mandate of the Working Group, the drafters of the Declaration have realized the legal protection gap with regard to the right to development, which still exists today. That calls for the establishment, within the United Nations system, of a mechanism to evaluate how the United Nations system incorporated the right to development in its work.
- The United Nations is in a crucial stage of its work, as we are at a turning point in drawing up the post-2015 development agenda. As the Human Rights Council resolution 27/2 has clearly highlighted, “the right to development should be central to the post-2015 development agenda.” We must therefore seize this opportunity to place the right to development in the heart of the new development framework. Thus, a focussed and streamlined methodology should be followed by the Working Group in making sure that the right to development is adequately integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;
- In the light of the above, we remain concerned that the current debates in the Working Group have not led to tangible results. We hope that the proposed framework will set in motion a process of strengthening the Working Group. In this regard, we would like to register the following comments:



*Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the UN – Geneva*



Chair of the NAM

1. It is essential that the Human Rights Council narrow differences and strive for consolidating political will for moving forward the work of the Working Group to accomplish its mandate;
2. We firmly believe that the Right to Development-based approach is a comprehensive process through which all human rights (civil, cultural, economic, political, and social) and fundamental freedoms are progressively realized. We strongly believe that the international community cannot strive for human rights while ignoring human needs and in this regard the Right to Development must be integrated in all efforts for the realization of these rights;
3. There is a need to mainstream the right to development in the policies and operational activities of the UN and its specialized agencies, programmes and funds as well as in policies and strategies of the international financial and multilateral trading systems, taking into account in this regard that the core principles of equality, equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international co-operation, including effective partnerships for development, which are indispensable in achieving the right to development and preventing discriminatory treatment to the issues of core concern to the developing countries. Therefore, the need for complementarities between the Right to



*Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the UN – Geneva*



Chair of the NAM

Development based approach and the mandates of the Special procedures of the Human Rights Council must be outlined so as to mainstream the right to development in their organizations;

4. It is important that the Working Group upholds the several critical milestones within the UN human rights system which have registered progress on the Right to Development including the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA). The VDPA reaffirmed that the Right to Development is a universal and inalienable right and emphasized that the human person is a central subject and a beneficiary of development. For us, the Working Group cannot be seen to regress on these important milestones;

5. There is an urgent need for the United Nations human rights machinery to ensure the operationalization of the Right to Development as a priority issue by working on the elaboration of a Convention on the Right to Development. This is the direction this Council has to take in order to realize the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration and the Global Developmental Agenda. As per UNHRC resolution 27/2, the criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria, once considered, revised and endorsed by the Working Group, should be used, in the elaboration of a comprehensive and coherent set of standards for the implementation of the right to development. We further believe that this



*Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the UN – Geneva*



Chair of the NAM

should advance towards an international legally binding instrument on the Right to Development including through the elaboration of a "Convention on the Right to Development";

6. The Working Group has been established with a clear and specific mandate of the monitoring and reviewing of progress made by the international community in the promotion and implementation of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration. Despite numerous resolutions adopted by the Commission of Human Rights and later the Human Rights Council, there is still no accountability for non-implementation of this right and there is no clear process to monitor and review of progress in the implementation of the right to development. We would like to see this mandate realized in a bold and meticulous manner and the Working Group should re-focus its efforts on the mandate as set out in the enabling resolution 1998/72 and we reiterate the Draft framework's focus on this matter;
7. Taking into account op14 of the HRC resolution 27/2, the Office of the High Commissioner is highly urged, in the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, to take sufficient measures to ensure balanced and visible allocation of resources and due attention to ensure visibility of the right to development through identifying and implementing tangible projects dedicated to the right to development, and to provide continuous updating to the Human Rights Council. It is imperative that the Office would draw up its plan in the implementation of



*Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the UN – Geneva*



Chair of the NAM

this provision. This matter should also be taken into consideration in the ongoing restructuring/reform process of the OHCHR;

8. In 2016, we will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development. For developing States across the world, this Declaration depicted at the time and also today, a promise by the International Community that we will all take hands to make this right a reality for everyone, thereby enabling each other to be better equipped to protect and promote the rights of our people. Hence, it should take stock of this momentum through defining and organizing, *inter alia*, a number of different initiatives and move forward with the sense of urgency that the current global situation demands to come up with clear and action-oriented results. In this context, it is highly recommended that a United Nations High-Level International Conference on the Right to Development be convened in the first half of 2016;

9. In line with op11 of the HRC Resolution 27/2, the Working Group should consider, as a matter of high priority, the extension of the meeting time of the Working Group and recommend the Human Rights Council a concrete proposal in this regard.
