**Syrian Arab Republic**

With reference to paragraph (15/a), HRC res. (28/30) entitled “The Right to Development”, the Syrian Arab Republic would like to underline the essential role of the following points in realizing and implementing the Right to Development:

1. Fully respect States’ right to implement their development policies, and related projects and programs, in accordance with their **national priorities**. The national development efforts should be supported by establishing **multilateral partnerships,** taking into consideration **differences between donor and recipient** countries in areas of developmental conditions and experiences as well as in legislative and structural frameworks.

2. Create **international conditions** under which peace and security will be maintained, and international cooperation to promote and protect human rights will be enhanced. This will be achieved through respecting the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and ending all its breaches, such as aggression and occupation, and establishing appropriate compensation mechanisms to address the impacts of such practices.

3. **Respect States and peoples inalienable right to full and permanent sovereignty over their natural resources**, and prohibit all aspects of external intervention, sabotage, coercion or any other practices that may hinder the exercise of this right.

4. States should refrain from **using their territories** to threaten the sovereignty, independence or stability of other states, including destabilizing their social, political or economic orders.

5. Refrain from imposing **unilateral coercive measures,** and lift those which have been already imposed.

6. Urge **UN specialized agencies, programs and funds,** to pay due attention to the Right to Development through integrating it into their plans and projects. An evaluation mechanism should be established to assess how far UN system has gone towards the full realization of this right.

7. Design and develop international policies and strategies which help honor the commitments related to **providing technical and financial assistance to developing countries,** including the commitments to strengthen South - North cooperation. This requires that such policies and strategies should be based on multilateral partnerships which help in achieving the international development goals represented in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. Address **indebtedness issues,** particularly their impacts on development. This may include, inter alia, considering the establishment of a mechanism for the settlement of debts for developing countries.

9. Increase **market access** for developing countries through adopting and implementing of preferential treatment terms, particularly for agricultural exports and other non- agricultural exports of interest to the developing countries.

10. Work on **flexible intellectual property rights systems** in order to ensure technology transfer and to facilitate access to technology and scientific innovations by developing countries and build their capacity in this area.

11. Refrain from using **official development assistance** **programs** to implement any form of coercion or political pressure.

 12. Refrain from using **transnational corporations** as tools of coercion against other states. Sates should ensure that the operations of transnational corporations under their jurisdiction and control are compatible with related norms of international law.

13. Ensure an inclusive and transparent international **consultations and decision- making process** with regard to global development plans and policies. This prioritizes reforming international organizations and institutions to ensure reflecting all countries’ interests and towards the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order.

14. Integrate the Right to Development, **as a legal principle**, in international instruments.

15. Design and implement **national plans** based on the active and meaningful participation for all in development and the fair distribution of the resulting benefits. This requires continuous education efforts about development as a human right, and integrating it as a legal principle in the national legislations.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Response of the Syrian Arab Republic to the questionnaire on the implementation and realization of the right to development**

**1.** Realizing and implementing the right to development, as an inalienable right to individuals and peoples, are **still far to reach**. Limited and slow steps have been taken to realize the frame provided through the Declaration on the Right to Development (1986), which is supposed to be a cornerstone to be built upon towards making this right a reality, and enhancing its legal structure.

**2.** National, regional and international **obstacles are interrelated and interdependent.** It is difficult to separate the three levels, as both regional and international obstacles have deep impacts nationally. Examples of regional and international challenges which hinder the national efforts are the following:

-Lack of UN Charter – based international cooperation to solve political, economic, social and cultural international problems. Instead of promoting friendly relations among all nations to address these problems, there are increased tendencies of policies which threaten international peace and security, such as prolonged occupation, interference in internal affairs of other States, threatening their territorial integrity and political independence and imposing unilateral coercive measures. These policies particularly target developing countries and negatively affect their development.

-The continuation of the politicized approach in addressing development issues. This has been reflected in linking the development cooperation to political aims, and denying commitments and obligations related to development cooperation, especially in the field of technical assistance and capacity building.

-Absence of a just and fair international economic order.

-Low attention is given by different United Nations agencies, programs and funds, to the right to development.

As mentioned above, these policies have negative impacts on the national level, for example, the lack of technical assistance leads to inefficient national development plans. Occupation caused the depletion of natural resources which are essential to development. External aggression and terrorism not only hinder any progress towards realizing and implementing this right, they have also retroactive effects that destroy what have been already achieved.

**Nationally;** there should be an increased level of education with regard to development as a human right, this will help in promoting a participatory development process which provides for a factual assessment to the national conditions and challenges.

**3.** Examples of steps to implement the obligations and commitments enshrined in the Declaration on the Right to Development:

**-Formulating appropriate national and international development policies:**

In Syria, national development plans are designed on the basis of (5) years, through a participatory process to ensure, as much as possible, public participation in designing and implementing these plans and benefiting, fully, from their outputs.

These National plans address a wide range of issues and prioritizing the following:

* Addressing the slow pace of economic recovery;
* Unemployment and managing of the force of work;
* Enhancing standards of living;
* Promoting of medium and small income-generating projects;
* Activating the role of women;
* Developing the structures of production and investment sectors;
* Developing and expanding scientific research centers;
* Protecting environment and sustainable use of resources;
* Ensure compatibility between education sector outputs and the labor market;

Increasing awareness of the right to development as a human right has become recently an element of the national development plans.

The terrorist war, backed from abroad, against the Syrian Arab Republic, with the unilateral coercive measures imposed by countries involved in destabilizing the country, including its economy, required rearranging development priorities and re-formulating development policies, particularly by allocating a large amount of resources to meet the escalating humanitarian needs of people affected by terrorist crimes.

At the international level, the Syrian Arab Republic continues to participate in discussions related to the global development plans. Through its membership in different international organizations and forums, it highlights developmental concerns and challenges and proposes steps to overcome them.

**- International cooperation:**

International cooperation is a pillar of the successive development national plans in Syria. This cooperation comes within the frame of the donor countries’ commitments, and aims, mainly, to obtain economic grants, soft loans and technical assistance programs.

The Planning and International Cooperation Commission[[1]](#footnote-1) is seeking to arrange and coordinate partnership agreements according to the national priorities, and to meet the needs of the productive and services sectors. These agreements include technical and administrative reforms which positively affect the performance of the national institutions.

The current circumstances in Syria negatively affect the international cooperation plans. Many programs and projects are delayed, suspended or cancelled. These resulted in gross losses to the national development process.

**-Appropriate remedial actions at the national and international levels:**

Nationally, through the inclusion of structural, legislative and administrative reforms as an element of national development plans and partnership agreements.

Internationally, through continuing to appeal for reforming international institutions and organizations to be reflecting all states’ interests and support all initiatives aiming at establishing a just and fair international economic order.

**-International Peace and Securit**y:

The Syrian Arab Republic is working through different channels to remove obstacles of the international peace and security related to, inter alia, colonialism, occupation and aggression. Overcoming these obstacles will be achieved by respecting the rules of international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter.

**4+5+8.** No precise information is available.

**6.** Yes, by the following:

- Responding to questionnaires and participation in discussing reports prepared by human rights mechanisms, such as the questionnaires and reports on unilateral coercive measures, international cooperation in the field of human rights, and other issues related, directly or indirectly, to the right to development.

- Highlighting achievements and challenges related to this right through national periodic reports presented to UN human rights treaty bodies, or under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR); also by putting forward recommendations related to this right to States under review.

**7.** **Article 13 of the Syrian Constitution contains elements for the realization of this right. It provides that t**he national economy shall be based on the principle of developing public and private economic activity through economic and social plans aiming at increasing the national income, developing production, raising the individual’s living standards and creating jobs.

According to the Syrian Constitution the economic policy of the state shall aim at meeting the basic needs of individuals and society through the achievement of economic growth and social justice in order to reach comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development. The State shall guarantee the protection of producers and consumers, foster trade and investment, prevent monopoly in various economic fields and work on developing human resources and protecting the labor force in a way that serves the national economy.

**9.** Yes, mechanisms related to international conventions or treaties which Syria is a party to.

**10.** Yes, through the **national report** presented under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), also the **periodic reports** which are submitted to UN human rights treaty bodies.

**11.** The assessment of this progress on the national level comes through a periodic evaluation of national development plans, by assessing their fulfillment to the national development goals, and the progress achieved towards realizing the international development goals.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

1. A Syrian national governmental institution in charge of coordinating cooperation in the field of development. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)