**European Union**

The European Union reiterates its support to the elaboration and implementation of the Right to Development (RtD). We further reiterate our readiness to engage with the Working Group on the Right to Development, as well as with the Chairperson – Rapporteur, throughout the process.

We would like to reiterate our position that we are not in favour of the elaboration of an international legal standard of a binding nature, as we do not believe that this is the appropriate instrument to realise the RtD. We highlight the importance of a rights-based approach to development, encompassing all human rights including the RtD, and emphasise that the primary responsibility for ensuring that the RtD is realised is one owed by States to their citizens.

With reference to the request to the Chairperson – Rapporteur to prepare a document containing a set of standards for consideration by the Working Group at its seventeenth session, we trust that in carrying out this mandate, the Chairperson – Rapporteur will take into consideration the divergent views that exist within the Working Group.

We would be in favour of a set of “guidelines” for the practical realisation of the RtD. These guidelines should contribute to the clarification of the meaning and scope of the RtD and its implementation. The European Union favours a document that focuses on agreed language and which will concentrate on the issues on which the Working Group is united.

We trust that the Working Group will be in a position to move forward with its mandate in a constructive manner, focusing on issues of agreement whilst rising above divisions.

We further suggest that States exchange best practices for the implementation of the RtD. The elaboration of the same will illustrate that the RtD works in practice and constitutes an added value for international cooperation.