**Global Network for the Right to Development,** UN Social Forum, Wednesday 5 October(check against delivery)

Thank you to the panelists for their excellent presentations, I would like to reiterate in this comment and add a further voice to what has been the core message of several of these presentations.

I wanted to comment generally about the important role of this session and this day’s topic of discussion in particular, in its focus on an international assistance and cooperation and an enabling environment for the right to development.

We have had some discussion on the relationship, and conceptual and practical distinction between the right to development and the human rights based approach over the last couple of days, and while we should not forget the ways in which the HRBA has been able to progress parts of the right to development, we must also recognize one key if not *the* key aspect in which the right to development is different and in which its so-called added value lies, and this is in its *international dimension*, as has been clarified, inter alia, by the High-level task force and OHCHR.

The Declaration on the Right to Development specifies the “creation of international conditions favorable to the realization of the right to development”.

While we have touched in an ad hoc manner on issues of international relevance and application such as international economic policy making, we have stopped short, I think, of highlighting this as the key feature of the RTD.

This feature should not be downplayed, and should be advocated as the central frame of the right to development going forward. The international element is related to and overlaps with international solidarity, but also is an element of the right to development itself and I would encourage deeper discussion on how the right to development supports dialogue on issues and emerging thinking on the ideas of *structural* change and the causes, and not merely symptoms, of global inequality.

Also a word on the nature of this support and nature of change: I would encourage us all, including in our next discussions on trade, to think beyond the right to development as a mere form of “constraint” on global economic policy within which policy making continues unchanged at its core, but rather to hold the RTD in its full transformative potential as the framework capable of effecting a leap in consciousness and shift in thinking that humanity requires, and which addresses the core of structural change, and the idea of positive forms of cooperation that go beyond mere aid towards systemic policy coherence.

Thank you.