**Global Network for the Right to Development,** UNSocial Forum, Monday 3 October 2011(check against delivery)

Thank you Chair.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce an evolving initiative on the right to development – the Global Network for the Right to Development (RTD-Net).

RTD-Net is a collaborative intergenerational initiative of groups and individuals worldwide working to contribute to the realization of the right to development. RTD-Net seeks to increase awareness and understanding of the right to development as a framework and tool for human-centered development and global social justice, and to facilitate individual and collective action on the implementation of the right to development and on related issues of global poverty and inequality. Underpinned by the international human rights legal framework, and providing a space for individuals and groups across regions and across generations to connect and strengthen a collective voice, RTD-Net seeks to build a global action community united in international solidarity, shared responsibility and our common humanity towards promoting a social and international order in which all people are equal in dignity and rights.

It is the hope of RTD-Net that the Social Forum can serve as an important mechanism to take steps towards meaningful implementation of the right to development in this 25th anniversary year, given the ongoing relevance of the right to development in the contemporary global context. We look forward to a fruitful dialogue over the next three days.

Thank you.