



**EUROPEAN UNION**

Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office  
and other international organisations in Geneva

Ambassador

Geneva, 4 June 2019

**Subject: The importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development – EU submission**

The European Union thanks the Secretariat of the Advisory Committee for the note dated 28 February 2019, and reiterates its support for the Right to Development, as based on the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights, the multidimensional nature of development strategies and the individuals as the central subjects of the development process.

The Right to Development requires the full realisation of Civil and Political Rights together with Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and hence a mix of laws and policies, creating an enabling environment for, and ensuring meaningful participation of individuals, involving a wide range of actors, at different levels. We highlight the importance of a rights-based approach to development, encompassing all human rights including the Right to Development, and emphasise that the primary responsibility for ensuring the realisation of the right to development is owed by States to their citizens. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birth right of all human beings and the lack of development cannot be invoked to justify the violation of these rights.

We would like to restate 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 Right to Development and we regret that Resolution 39/9 prejudices the outcome of the ongoing discussions in the Working Group on the Right to Development.

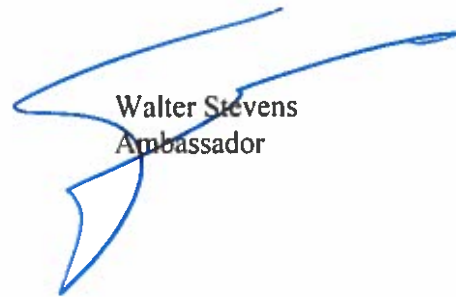
Divergent views in the understanding of the Right to Development remain. A common position has not been reached so far. There remain fundamental differences on issues such as

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the role of indicators, the content of the Right to Development, its implications as well as appropriate instruments to realise this right. This is why we are not in favour of the elaboration of an international legal standard of a binding nature, and why we could not support the above-mentioned resolution in September 2018.

We thank you for your attention, and would ask for our views to be reflected in the report prepared by the Advisory Committee on the issue of a legally binding instrument.



Walter Stevens  
Ambassador