

## **Submission in follow-up to HRC resolution 19/34 “The right to development”**

### **Portugal**

Portugal has carefully examined the report of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development on its sixth session, contained in document A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2, and would like to reiterate its appreciation for the work of this task force, particularly as it concerns the development of criteria, sub-criteria and indicators on the right to development.

We could support the inclusion of such criteria and sub-criteria in a set of guidelines addressed to States, but continue to consider that the elaboration of a new and legally binding instrument on the right to development (as suggested in paragraph 13 of the task force report) would not be appropriate, and that the possibilities of existing human rights instruments and mechanisms to help realize the right to development should first be explored, while any new developments in this area should be undertaken on a consensual basis only.

Concerning the criteria, sub-criteria and indicators as elaborated in the Annex to the above mentioned report, we would like to offer the following comments:

- As it concerns education (1 (a) (ii)), we believe that indicators should be developed to assess qualitative dimensions of education;
- Concerning food security and nutrition (1 (a) (v)), we believe that the assessment of adult malnutrition should also be included in indicators;
- Concerning the ratification of relevant international conventions, we believe that all core United Nations human rights treaties, and their protocols, as well as relevant regional human rights treaties, should be considered as indicators;
- We also believe that acceptance of international human rights complaints procedures, namely to United Nations human rights treaty bodies, ILO and UNESCO, should be included as an indicator under sub-criteria 2 (c) (i).
- Acceptance of regional communications procedures, in particular individual communications to regional human rights courts, should be also specified as an autonomous indicator under sub-criteria 2 (c) (i).