Nord-Sud XXI Oral Submission at the 18th Human Rights Council
on the Panel on the Right to Development

Nord-Sud XXI views the right to development as one of the most essential rights both as a human right for all people and as a right among States and a goal for which States must strive to achieve through cooperation.

Nord-Sud XXI welcomes the consolidated report of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General on the right to development. We especially welcome the effort that the High Commissioner has made to focus attention on the role and necessity of cooperation for achieving the right to development.

We believe that cooperation is essential for achieving development, which must be understood in its widest sense and not merely as economic development.

Nord-Sud XXI attaches particular importance to the principles of equity and respect for the rule of international law in achieving development. We note in this regard, that developed countries must carry the main burden of ensuring adequate and widespread development throughout the world. These countries have benefited for dozens of decades from a disproportionate exploitation of our shared resources and from the exploitation of the people for the Global South.

To date, developed countries have not met their responsibility. Almost no developed country has met their often repeated commitment to providing 1% or even the later revised down amount of 0.7% of their GDP to Overseas Development Assistance. In many cases, developed countries continue to exploit developing countries, using developing countries resources, both human and natural, without adequate benefits accruing to the peoples of the developing countries concerned. Such exploitation is a serious interference with the right to development.

Finally, Nord-Sud XXI notes that our current international financial and economic institutions and arrangements have failed most people in most of the world. We must change drastically. Perhaps most importantly, global financial and economic institutions must be made accountable to the people of the world represented by their governments. This accountability must be based on shared authority over the resources derived from our planet’s finite resources and on a shared and equitable stake in the governance of the global financial and economic institutions. We urge the Council to call upon the General-Assembly and the High Commissioner to actively encourage States to ensure these changes are made.