

## Annex II

### Overview of United Nations mechanisms on the right to development

The United Nations has played a key role throughout in the emergence and progressive development of the right to development both prior to and following the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development. It has supported a series of expert mechanisms: the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development (1981-1989), with a mandate to study the scope and content of the right to development and the most effective means to ensure the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (during its first nine sessions the Working Group played an active role in drafting the Declaration, which was eventually amended and adopted by the General Assembly); the open-ended Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development (1993-1995), with a mandate to identify obstacles to the implementation and realization of the Declaration and to recommend ways and means towards the realization of the right to development by all States; and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Right to Development (1996-1997), with a mandate, inter alia, to elaborate a strategy for the implementation and promotion of the right to development and to elaborate concrete and practical measures for the implementation and promotion of the right to development. In 1998, the Commission established two mechanisms: a new open-ended intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development (1998- ) and an Independent Expert on the right to development (1998-2003).<sup>a</sup> In 2004 that Working Group recommended the creation of

a high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development (2004-2010) with a mandate to provide the necessary expertise to the working group.<sup>b</sup>

The mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development is to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development, as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, at the national and international levels, providing recommendations thereon and further analysing obstacles to its full enjoyment, focusing each year on specific commitments in the Declaration; to review reports and any other information submitted by States, United Nations agencies, other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations on the relationship between their activities and the right to development; and to present for the consideration of the Human Rights Council a sessional report on its deliberations, including advice to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to the implementation of the right to development and suggesting possible programmes of technical assistance, at the request of interested countries, with the aim of promoting the implementation of the right to development. The Working Group meets once a year in Geneva for five working days and submits its report to both the Council and the General Assembly.

The General Assembly and the Human Rights Council entrusted the High Commissioner for Human Rights with a mandate to “promote and protect the realization of the right to development and to enhance support from relevant bodies of

<sup>a</sup> Commission resolution 1998/72, endorsed by decision 1998/269 of the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>b</sup> Commission resolution 2004/7, endorsed by decision 2004/249 of the Economic and Social Council.

the United Nations system for this purpose”;<sup>c</sup> to mainstream the right to development and “undertake effectively activities aimed at strengthening the global partnership for development among Member States, development agencies and the international development, financial and trade institutions”;<sup>d</sup> and to ensure “inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system with regard to the promotion

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<sup>c</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/141.

<sup>d</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/155.

and realization of the right to development”.<sup>e</sup> Both the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner report annually to the General Assembly and to the Council on the promotion and protection of the right to development.

The reports of all the mechanisms are cited in the Selected Bibliography, Part Two – United Nations.

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<sup>e</sup> Human Rights Council resolution 19/34.