

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIAL PROCEDURES

**Regional consultation on the practical implementation of the right to development:
identifying and promoting good practices**

(11-12 June 2018)

EU Statement, 11 June

Madam Chair,

Thanking you for the invitation to this regional consultation, I have the honour to deliver this intervention on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

As expressed in our statements on various occasions, we, the European Union, remain strongly committed to achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty, promoting respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms at the international, regional and national levels; working towards ensuring security, conflict prevention and resolution; and encouraging good governance, gender equality, human development, accountability and equitable globalisation.

When it comes to the right to development, we must recognise that divergent views in its understanding remain. We reiterate our support for this right 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.

As explained at HRC36 in September 2016, the European Union was not in favour of creating another mechanism on the Right to Development, out of concern that it duplicates the work of other mechanisms that are already in place, the Working Group in particular. However, we stand ready as global leaders in development assistance to share our experience and good practices in national and international development policies, as well as our evaluation of processes and outcomes of Agenda 2030, as we have done in the 19th session of the Working Group on the Right to Development.

Development is a comprehensive process aiming to improve the well-being of all. Its emphasis on equality, participation, empowerment and ensuring that "no one is left behind" echoes the definition of the right to development as an "inalienable human right". The right to development is part of, and requires the full enjoyment of all human rights, civil and political,

economic, social and cultural, by all. This includes respect for the principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, accountability, social justice and solidarity at all levels. While individuals, including those in vulnerable situations, remain at the heart of development agendas, States bear the duty and primary responsibility of creating conditions conducive to their own environmentally sustainable and inclusive development in which all human rights and freedoms can be realised, with much greater equality of opportunities for both individuals and nations. International cooperation and partnership can contribute to ensuring sustainable and inclusive development, and help forge a rules-based global order.

We appreciate the comprehensive and holistic approach the Special Rapporteur took and the participatory, accountable, transparent, and inclusive manner suggested for the realisation of human rights for everyone. The human rights-based approach to development policies and programme design and the principles of non-discrimination and equality the Special Rapporteur advocated correspond to our views of the rights of individuals, and it is on this basis that we in the EU take our development policies and programmes forward.

With the recent adoption of the European Consensus on Development "Our world, our dignity, our future", we the EU took a major step towards renewing our policy framework with a comprehensive approach to development. In implementing the Consensus, we are committed to promoting the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, the rule of law, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity as essential preconditions to achieve sustainable and inclusive development and long-term stability. In the new Consensus, the human rights-based approach to development cooperation is the principle guiding EU development action. It encompasses all human rights, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, migration status or other status and it promotes inclusion and participation, non-discrimination, equality and equity, transparency and accountability.

The European Union and its member States are proud to lead global efforts as the world's largest development actor to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable and inclusive development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions by 2030. The European Consensus as the cornerstone of the EU's development policy is part of the overall response to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Agenda 2030 also offers the international community new prospects for realising the right to development. It marks a paradigm shift towards a more balanced form of sustainable and inclusive development, and opens up new avenues for systematically integrating human rights into global, regional and national policies. All human rights are essential to the successful implementation of Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. A development path in which

human rights are not respected, protected and fulfilled cannot be sustainable, and would render the notion of sustainable and inclusive development meaningless.

Madam Chair,

As mentioned at the beginning of my intervention, we are ready to share our experience and we are therefore sending in writing for information the more detailed description of EU policies, plans of action, and practices that we have presented in the 19th session of the Working Group, in the hope that the EU's principles and practices will be duly represented in any summary that may be made of these regional consultations.

Thank you for your attention.