

## **Submission in follow-up to HRC resolution 15/25 “The Right to development”**

### **Portugal**

Views of Portugal concerning on the work of the high-level task force and the way forward, in particular:

- a) The right to development criteria and operational sub-criteria of the task force
- b) The consolidation of findings of the task force
- c) The conclusions and recommendations of the task force, in particular with regard to the suggestions for further action on the criteria, thematic areas of international cooperation for consideration, and mainstreaming the right to development
- d) The way forward to ensure the effective implementation of the right to development

Portugal hereby expresses its appreciation for the work of the task force on the implementation of the right to development, particularly as it concerns the development of criteria, sub-criteria and indicators on the right to development. We support the preparation of a reporting template, as well as the suggestion to encourage initiatives and senior-level consultations involving regional institutions on the integration of right to development concerns and criteria into their policies and activities. We would also support that the right to development criteria be included in reporting under the universal periodic review.

We would also support that the Working Group would focus attention on issues not covered to date, inter alia on issues covered by the United Nations Development Agenda such as the enabling framework: peace, good governance and human rights; and gender equality, protection for children; promoting youth development; opportunities and support for older persons.

Concerning the right to development criteria and operational sub-criteria of the task force, we consider that the all United Nations core human rights treaties should be considered as an indicator of the “Ratification of relevant international conventions”, under the establishment of a legal framework supportive of sustainable human-centred development (Attribute 2 - “Participatory human rights processes”).

We note that the task force, while working “on practical efforts to promote the implementation of the right” to development, has not taken a position on the issue of a legal instrument of a binding character and suggested that “[f]urther work on a set of standards and regional consultations could be an opportunity to explore whether and to what extent existing treaty regimes could accommodate right to development issues within their legal and institutional settings”.

Portugal supports this approach. We do not consider that the elaboration of a new and legally binding instrument on the right to development would be appropriate at this stage, and that the possibilities of existing human rights instruments and mechanisms to help realise the right to development should first be explored. We consider that any new developments in this area should be undertaken on a consensual basis.

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