

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

### **Thailand**

The Thai Government appreciates the efforts of the high-level task force for developing the right to development criteria and operational sub-criteria as stipulated in the Addendum to the Report of the task force on the implementation of the right to development (A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/Add.2). Thailand views that the criteria and operational criteria should give attention to the responsibility of States at both the national and international levels to create conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development, in line with Article 3 of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

In this regard, the criteria and operational sub-criteria may serve as useful guidance for States and other relevant stakeholders in their operationalisation of the right to development and related development policies and programmes. With regard to the indicators, Thailand perceives these indicators to be a compilation of social and economic information relating to the right to development, most of which can be addressed in the national development plans of respective countries. In the case of Thailand, these indicators are already reflected in the draft 11<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan for the years 2012-2016.

Particularly, Thailand concurs with Sub-criteria 2 which addresses the right to development priorities as reflected in the policies and programmes of the World Bank, IMF, World Trade Organisation and other international institutions, and the development of specific indicators on equity, non-discrimination and the right to development objectives in IMF, World Bank and the WTO programmes and policies. In the case of the Asia-Pacific region, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Growth Strategy already reflects these priorities in its aim to create balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure economic growth within the region.

- **The consolidation of findings of the task force (document A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.1 and Corr. 1)**

Thailand appreciates the consolidation of findings of the task force which provides an overview of whether or not and how the right to development is considered by different selected actors. Thailand places particular importance on aid effectiveness. In this regard, we support the view of the task force that human rights, including the right to development, should be explicitly included as goals in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and ministerial declarations. We also support the inclusion of a review and evaluation framework with clear targets and indicators in order to assess the impact of the Declaration on the right to development and the Millennium Development Goals. Thailand views that a human rights approach to development can positively contribute to the overall realization of the right to development.

- **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 (document A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2 and Corr. 1)**

The Thai Government appreciates the work of the task force and its conclusion and recommendations. With regard to **further action on the criteria**, Thailand views that the circulation of the criteria to States and other relevant stakeholders is a useful way to further improve these criteria. It is also a way of ensuring that the criteria obtain the widest support from all stakeholders.

On the reporting template, while Thailand is supportive of concrete ways to enhance the operationalisation of the right to development in principle, a reporting template on the criteria poses some issues which should be further discussed. Some of these questions are such as the official status of the criteria and the monitoring body to which States should report.

In general, Thailand is supportive of the recommendation to organize regional consultations with new intergovernmental bodies on human rights, namely, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the Arab Human Rights Committee. However, the consultations should not be confined to the criteria, but should be broadened to include possible ways to operationalise the right to development within the respective regions, taking into consideration both the national and international aspects of this right.

Thailand supports the recommendation by the task force for the Working Group to seek information on existing examples used in the United Nations system with regard to the appropriate form of standards to be developed based on the criteria, and to examine proposals for the structure and methods for drafting a set of standards most suited to the right to development. This cautious and gradual approach should help ensure that the standards, once developed, can be appropriately and effectively implemented. Thailand views this proposal to be in line with the Human Rights Council resolution 12/23 of 2 October 2009.

On **the mainstreaming of the right to development**, Thailand fully supports the recommendation by the task force for the OHCHR to integrate the right to development into all aspects of its work, including its activities at the country level. The mainstreaming of the right to development should be on a par with other human rights and should be based on the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights. With regard to the mainstreaming of the right to development in the work of the treaty bodies and other relevant human rights bodies, this should be carried out in accordance with the mandates of these respective bodies. Within the UPR process, equal attention should be given to the right to development, bearing in mind both the national and international dimensions of this right and the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights.

- **The way forward to ensure the effective implementation of the right to development**

Effective implementation of the right to development requires the raising of awareness and understanding of all persons and relevant stakeholders on the content of this right. As the international community prepares to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

Declaration on the Right to Development in 2011, States should take this opportunity to strengthen their efforts in raising awareness of all relevant stakeholders about this right through various activities, such as the distribution of the text of the Declaration and the organization of seminars and workshops on the topic of the right to development. National, regional and international development agencies and other relevant actors should be encouraged to participate in these activities, as appropriate, with a view to raising the awareness of these agencies about the cross-cutting nature of the right to development. Furthermore, human rights education and training activities by States should be comprehensive, encompassing the full range of human rights, including the right to development, based on the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights.

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