The International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, ISMUN, together with its partner organization International-Lawyers.Org, welcome the opportunity to participate in the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development. We also express our congratulations to the Chairperson-Rapporteur for her re-election and for ably guiding the work of this important Working Group.

We firmly believe that this Working Group is one of the most important for achievement of a just and equitable world with respect for human rights everywhere. Without the right to development, individuals cannot live in dignity.

It is because of the importance of the right to development that was recognized by the overwhelming majority of Member States in 1986 and appears in several legally binding treaties. It has also been repeatedly reiterated since by the Human Rights Council and General Assembly, among others. We hope that eventually the right to development will be enshrined in a written legally binding framework.

We welcome the first reading of the criteria and operational subcriteria at this session. We also encourage the Working Group to continue to make progress.

We find it hard to understand how today some States continue to object to the substance of the right to development or a legally binding framework. We strongly believe that every State or other participant in the Working Group must commit to the right to development. This is required by morality, but also by law as the right to development is part of customary international law.

We also see a challenge in the issue of measureability being discussed by States that have not all unambiguously agreed on the right to development. Every other major human rights instrument has been created by first defining the core principles and then by considering mechanisms to measure whether a right is being respected. Only if we unambiguously agree that there is a legal obligation should we discuss how we measure whether that obligation is being observed. Yet in this Working Group, we are being told by some that we must first come up with ways to measure something of which some doubt the existence? Moreover, it would seem that if there is a concern with measurement, those expressing that concern could suggest criteria and subcriteria that can be measured. We hope that this will be the case.

We note that the right to development requires that all States assist other States in ensuring human rights and development. This obligation is found in imperative terms in articles 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations. Those States that have benefited the most from the exploitation of the resources of our planet and its people, have the highest duty of cooperation.

We also note that cooperation based on unambiguous recognition of the right to development is the key to progress towards a draft of criteria and sub-criteria. We urge the States that are this Intergovernmental Working Group to cooperate with each other based on a firm commitment to the right to development.

Finally, we urge the Working Group to consider how it can contribute its expertise to the work of the OWG defining the post-2015 development agenda on Sustainable Development Goals.