



*Permanent Mission of the  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
to the UN – Geneva*

**Chair of the NAM**



**The Statement by H.E. Mr. Mohsen Naziri Asl  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the I.R of Iran  
To the United Nations Office in Geneva  
On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

**At the Fifteenth Session of the Working Group**

**On the Right to Development**

**Geneva, May 12, 2014.**

**Madam chair,**

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, NAM would like to express its appreciation to Madame High Commissioner for Human Rights and her office for their continued support rendered to the Working Group of the right to development. We also thank Mr. Craig Mokhiber, Chief of the Development, Economic and Social Issues Branch of OHCHR, for his presence at this important session.

NAM would also like to seize this opportunity to congratulate you, Madam Chair for being re-elected as the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development for one more year. We are confident that, under your able stewardship, the Working Group will continue its work with a view to achieve tangible and action-oriented results on the programme of work.

**Madam chair,**

NAM expresses its serious concern that, after a long effort by the international community to realize the right to development, still obstacles persist, In this respect, among the others, due to the improper work of the global economic and financial system. The challenges of our current world, namely, the recent global and economic crisis are becoming more complicated. This crisis, which was deep-rooted in developed countries, has had a negative impact on developing countries and reduced their potential to move towards a better standard of living. Today, the realization of the right to development is a necessity more than ever. NAM is of the firm belief that, the international community should demonstrate its political commitment and give the right to development the high profile it rightly deserves.

**Madam chair,**



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NAM emphasizes the urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone and a mainstream of human rights. In this regard, we recognize the importance of engaging the United Nations system, including United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, within their respective mandates, relevant international organizations, including financial and trade organizations, and relevant stakeholders, as well as civil society, in discussions on the right to development.

The group also encourages all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations to mainstream the right to development into their objectives, policies, programmes and operational activities, as well as into development and development-related processes, including the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

We maintain that, the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development and lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favorable economic environment at the international level.

NAM would also like to reiterate its unwavering commitment to the right to development as an individual and collective right incurring individual national responsibility and international responsibility on the States for the creation of an enabling environment for its full realization. It is essential, however, to strike a balance between national and international responsibilities, together with the notion of differentiated responsibility and ensuring access to resources by developing countries, as well as their participation in global decision-making for the realization of the right to development.

NAM reiterates that, democracy and good governance at the national and international levels, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. We also firmly believe that the long-term unilateral coercive measures could result in social problems and raise humanitarian concerns in the States targeted. Hence, we maintain that adoption for any cause or consideration, of coercive and unilateral measures, rules and policies against the developing countries is contrary to the basic rights of their populations.

As the Working Group continues to work on the refinement and final endorsement of the criteria and sub-criteria, those standards should, in NAM's view, evolve into a basis for the consideration of an international legal standard of a binding nature through a collaborative process of engagement. Furthermore and according to HRC Resolution 12/23, the criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria should have addressed 'the essential



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features of the right to development, as defined in the Declaration on the Right to Development.

**Madam Chair,**

In pursuant of the resolution of the HRC (A/HRC/24/L.6) adopted in September 2013 a two-day informal intersessional intergovernmental meeting of the Working Group convened in 3 and 4 April 2014 with a view to improve the effectiveness of the Working Group at its 15th session. In this a two-day informal meeting, the Movement among other issues, attached great importance to the immediate commencement of the second reading of criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria in the upcoming sessions of the Working Group on the Right to Development. This is an urgent demand, due to the slow pace of the discussion of this important issue as a result of which the right to development has yet to be fully and truly realized. In this regard, it should be noted that, almost three decades has been elapsed since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on the Right to Development.

**Madam Chair,**

NAM is of the view that, the criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria, once considered, revised and endorsed by the Working Group, should be used, as appropriate, in the elaboration of a comprehensive and coherent set of standards for the implementation of the right to development. Hence, the current open-ended Working Group in line with its mandate and according to the conclusions and recommendations reflected in the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development on its 14th session, which adopted by consensus and also endorsed by resolution A/HRC/24/4, should continue at its fifteenth session, to work on the consideration of the draft operational sub-criteria, with the first reading of the remaining operational sub-criteria.

**Madam Chair,**

In conclusion, NAM, would like to assure you of its full cooperation and work constructively towards achieving the tangible goal namely implementation of the right to development for all human beings.

**Thank you.**

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