**Sri Lanka**

1. We reaffirm the importance of establishing the Right to Development as a collective and individual endeavour that requires commitment at both national, regional and international levels to ensure success.
2. After nearly 30 years since its adoption, we believe that the Declaration on the Right to Development still continues to provide the normative framework which reflects principles that should guide and shape policies and practices in a new development agenda for the future.
3. As stipulated in Article 9 of the Declaration on the Right to Development, all aspects of the Right to Development are indivisible and interdependent and should be considered in the context of the whole. Also, as stated in Article 4 (2) of the Declaration on Right to Development, effective international cooperation is essential to eliminate these obstacles and create an international climate conducive to the realization of the right to development.
4. If we pursue a rights-based approach to the new development agenda when implementing its goals and targets, it will be more meaningful to the individuals as it gives a sense of ownership. Further, it would be a more pragmatic way to firm up our commitment to realize Development in a holistic manner, encompassing socio-economic, cultural and political well-being for humanity.
5. It is important to note in this regard that the post 2015 development agenda requires interrelated and integrated action by the international community, especially as it focuses on five mutually inclusive areas of ‘critical importance to the humanity and the planet, people, prosperity, peace and partnership’[[1]](#footnote-1). Therefore there is more reason for developing countries to remain engaged even more actively in the process of realizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in partnership with the developed countries.
6. In the above context, Sri Lanka believes that the global efforts for the realization and implementation of the Right to Development would complement the agreed Post 2015 agenda envisaged in the document ‘transforming our world’ the 2030 Agenda for Global Action.
7. We hope that the upcoming 30th Anniversary of the Declaration that falls in 2016 will inspire the Working Group on the Right to Development to move forward with a sense of urgency and renewed vigour in accomplishing its mandate.
8. We recognize the achievements made by the Working Group over the past decades, and hold the view that it is important to develop criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria for the implementation of the Right to Development.
9. In this regard, first and foremost, a strong political will based on international cooperation should be the basis on which this Working Group should endeavour to successfully accomplish its mandate. We need to arrive at a consensus on the most effective way forward to eliminate the obstacles that stand in the way of development, to translate our commitments into concrete action, and to create the conditions for the enjoyment of the inalienable Right to Development for everyone.
10. Sri Lanka also expresses its support on the view that it is incumbent upon all States to overcome the deadlock in implementing Right to Development and strive to achieve tangible results and move forward towards a comprehensive and coherent set of standards on the Right to Development, as a basis for a legally binding instrument.
11. We hope that the proposed document to be produced by the Chair-Rapporteur, containing a set of standards to implement the right to development will set in motion a process that strengthens the work of the Working Group, without prejudice to the ongoing discussions on the criteria and operational sub criteria in the upcoming sessions of the Working Group.
12. As a procedural measure towards enhancing efficiency, we believe that the Working Group on the Right to Development should re-focus on its full mandate as stipulated in the enabling resolution 1998/72. We also believe that extension of the meeting time and an effective agenda / work programme are essential for this Working Group to continue its engagement on all aspects of its mandate. We also emphasize the need to ensure adequate allocation of resources and due visibility to the right to development, would be a catalyst in successfully accomplishing the mandate of this Working Group.
13. Also, we welcome the Human Rights Council High Level Panel on Human Rights Mainstreaming to be held during the 31st session of the HRC in March 2016 on the topic “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights, with an emphasis on the Right to Development” as well as the decision to convene a high-level segment of the UN General Assembly at its 71st Session to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Right to Development. These two events will provide a platform for both developed and developing countries to engage constructively and to demonstrate their commitment to respond to the current global challenges in the implementation of Right to Development.
1. http://sd.iisd.org/news/final-draft-of-post-2015-outcome-document-released/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)