

Statement by Malaysia

Report of the Working on the Right to Development Fourth Session of the Human Rights Council Thursday, 15 March 2007

Mr. President,

The Malaysian delegation associates itself with the statement made by Cuba ^{concerning the report of the WG on RTD} of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and China ^{on behalf}. We wish to convey ~~through you~~ our appreciation and admiration to Ambassador Ibrahim Salama for his expertise and the excellent manner in which he has steered the Working Group ~~on the Right to Development~~ as its Chairman. And we thank him for his presentation of the Working Group's report to the Council.

Mr. President,

2. Two decades have passed since the passage of the Declaration on the Right to Development by the UN General Assembly in 1986. Yet, millions of people are still trapped in a situation of vicious circle of underdevelopment, poverty and hunger, as they are being deprived of their right to development, and inevitably their other basic rights and fundamental freedoms.

3. We do acknowledge that governments have the primary responsibility for the creation of national conditions favourable to the realisation of the right to development. ^{But}, implementation of this right at national level is intertwined with a multitude of factors operating at the international level. We therefore find efforts by national governments to ~~alleviate such invidious situation and~~ bring people into the mainstream of development are being hampered by shrinking policy space at the national level and an unfavourable international environment.

4. Given these circumstances, the international community, including this Council should exert utmost efforts to progressively work towards operationalising the right to development. We need a clear vision, enhanced coherence and effective coordination at both national and international levels to achieve this objective. In this context, we should be reminded of certain principles in guiding our work, that

- i. ~~The right to development~~^{Being} is a fundamental human right, ~~as has been elaborated in several documents, including the UN Declaration on the Right to Development.~~
- (i) ii. → The right to development is not just about poverty eradication alone. But it also serves as a bridge between economic, social and cultural rights on the one hand and civil and political rights on the other;
- (ii) iii. We need a genuine global partnership to adopt practical measures to realise this right to ensure economic growth and development for all. The Right to Development is not just about mainstreaming human rights into development;
- (iii) iv. All should strive to make tangible progress in terms of realisation of this right with a view to bridging the ever widening development divide; and
- (iv) v. Ultimately, efforts should be undertaken for the elaboration of a convention as an international legal instrument on the right to development. Here, we expect this ~~Human Rights Council~~ to build on the work already accomplished ~~in the Sub-Commission~~ ^{thus far} towards this noble objective.

Mr. President,

on the refinements to RTD standards
and criteria towards, consistency

5. The Working Group ~~[on the Right to Development]~~ has been the pillar for the entire edifice of the RTD mechanism. It has furthered the discussion on the right to development, ^{with} ~~There has indeed been~~ significant progress from conceptualization towards concrete discussion ~~on~~ the necessary steps for realisation ~~of~~ this right. The High Level Task Force on the Implementation of the Right to Development has made important contribution in this effort. ~~Malaysia shares the view that the criteria being developed and elaborated by the Task Force for the periodic evaluation of Global Partnerships constitute a~~ work-in-progress.

6. Such progress should pave the way for this Council to further inspire a common understanding and approach towards the practical implementation of the right to development. In the interest of moving this important process forward, Malaysia support^s the recommendations of the Working Group and the Task Force that their respective mandates should be extended for further two years.

7. We would encourage ^{the WG and them} the Task Force, in its future work, to ^{build on the} ~~come up with~~ action-oriented recommendations that can help integrate the different partnerships into one coherent and global partnership for development, as envisaged in MDG-8. This approach is well entrenched in the Declaration on the Right to Development which provides that "States have the duty to co-operate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development" and that they also "should realize their rights and fulfil their duties in such a manner as to promote a new international economic order based on sovereign equality, interdependence, mutual interest and co-operation among all States."

Thank you.