



CHAIR OF  
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

FOURTH SESSION

REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON THE  
RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CUBA, ON  
BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

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(Check against delivery)

Geneva, 15 March, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. China associates itself with this statement.

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, allow me to thank you for the presentation of this report.

Mr. Chairman,

The XIV NAM summit, held in Havana in September, 2006, called for the elevation of the right to development to the same level and on par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms elaborated in human rights instruments, and for the consideration of ways and means to ensure the operationalization of the right to development, as a priority, including through the elaboration of a convention on RtD. This was reaffirmed by General Assembly resolution 61/169.

General Assembly resolution 60/251 establishing the Human Rights Council, reaffirmed the importance and the centrality of the right to development, and made its promotion and protection one of its key objectives and a fundamental part of the Council's mandate.

This was not a coincidence. It was a clear recognition of the imperative need to multiply efforts to make the right to development a reality for all individuals and peoples of the world.

The truth is that twenty years after the adoption of the U.N. Declaration on the Right to Development, the international community has very little to show in terms of the implementation of this inalienable right, yet to be realized for the vast majority of peoples .

The gap between developed and developing countries continues to be unacceptably widening, and national efforts of developing countries are increasingly impacted negatively by the persistence of a number of obstacles which escape the control of their governments, as a result of the existing unfair and inequitable international economic order.

The impact of globalisation, which takes away the autonomy from developing countries as regards decision making to formulate development policies suitable to their realities; unfair trade rules and practices, that restricts market access and allows for export subsidies; lack of international cooperation; the decrease in and failure to comply with the commitment to Official Development Assistance and transfer of technology; the heavy debt burdens, as a factor of permanent decapitalization of the economies of countries of the South; foreign occupation, armed conflicts, international sanctions, unilateral coercive measures, and the limited participation of developing countries in international decision making in trade, financial and monetary institutions, among others, continues to affect national capacities and hamper initiatives of developing countries to realize the RTD.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to recall that, in terms of the Declaration on the RTD, the States have the duty to cooperate for the creation of national and international conditions conducive to realization of the RTD, and accordingly formulate individual and collective policies.

International cooperation is embodied in MDG 8 on the global partnership for development, and NAM believes that MDG 8 holds the key to meeting the other seven millennium development goals. Progress on the global commitment for improved aid, fairer trade, steep debt relief and transfer of technology, will determine, to a large extent, the successful achievement of the first seven MDGs in developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

NAM follows very close the work of the High Level Task Force on the implementation of the Right to Development, particularly on the elaboration and pilot application of the Criteria for the periodic evaluation of Global Partnerships from the perspective of the right to development.

NAM equally salutes the continued active engagement of the International financial, monetary, development and trade institutions, as principal partners in the process of operationalizing the right to development.

Nevertheless, NAM considers the Criteria to be work in progress, which should be reviewed and further improved, in a manner that better reflects and adheres to the fundamental principles of the right to development as contained in the Declaration on RTD. Specifically, the criteria should better reflect the international dimension of this particular right, as well as to focus on its implementation.

While we recognize the need to further explore the three partnerships examined at the TF's last session, we also see the benefit in expanding this exercise aimed at covering other components of the global partnership for development, including trade, aid, debt, transfer of technology and other issues identified in MDG 8.

In this regard, NAM takes note of the recommendation adopted in the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the RTD to extend the mandate of the HLTF for two years, so as to allow it to deepen its study on the three development partnership already considered, and to take up an additional partnership, namely the Cotonou Agreement, as well as to address other issues of international cooperation identified under MDG 8. A report of each meeting should be submitted to the consideration of the Working Group.

On the other hand, the NAM requests the HLTF that in the discharge of its mandate takes into account the need to consider ways and means to ensure the operationalization of the RTD as a priority, including through the elaboration of an International legally binding Convention on RTD. In this regard, the process of reviewing and improving the criteria could be conducive to the elaboration of

standards, which could be used as one of the basis for drafting this International Convention.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.