###### Thank you, Mr. President,

Allow me from the outset to thank the Committee for the well-researched and thoughtful zero draft report on the importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development, a right which was born out of African intellectualism.

We were are particularly pleased to note that the draft report reiterates that the Right to Development should be central to the implementation of Agenda 2030, and that realisation of this right can provide a balanced, comprehensive and enabling framework to strengthen the global partnership to achieve the SDG’s in a sustainable manner while promoting all human rights for everyone. We hope that some of conclusions could be used to move us closer to consensus and erase the concerns regarding the alleged negative impact of a legally binding instrument on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The body of evidence suggests that we can no longer wait as more and more people are being left behind with many countries being off track in the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

Mr. President,

Please allow me to also address the proposal to have a framework agreement with no binding obligations. In our view the, Committee derives its mandate from Paragraph 18 of HRC39/9. The resolution does not mandate the advisory committee to recommend alternatives to a legally binding instrument.

Thank you, Mr. President.