



2011 Economic and Social Council Substantive Session
Coordination Segment

Special event on
“The right to Development and Global Partnership for Development”
(Geneva, 12 July 2011)

EU intervention

- The 4th of December 2011 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Right to Development.
- The EU would like to recall that the Declaration, in its definition of the right to development, does not reduce development to purely economic aspirations or goals but articulates a broad, comprehensive understanding of development at national and international levels. Moreover, the right to development emphasises the multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and complex nature of development processes and the need for development to be inclusive, equitable and sustainable, which is something that the EU fully supports.
- The European Union is strongly committed to Sustainable Development, poverty reduction and reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Indeed the European Union's ~~commitment~~ commitment to Sustainable Development is such that it provides approximately 60% of global development aid. Sustainable Development is seen by the European Union both as a condition for and the consequence of the respect of all Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The EU wishes to reiterate that the full realisation of all human rights, including a right to development, is an obligation for States, acting individually and collectively, within institutionalised frameworks, such as regional and international organisations.
- As the Declaration on the Right to Development proclaims that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and equal attention must be paid to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, the EU finds a great similarity between the Declaration and its own approach to Sustainable Development and the promotion and protection of all Human Rights. The Right to Development requires a mix of policies involving a wide range of actors at different levels, which will create an enabling environment for individuals and ensure that the human being is the main participant and beneficiary of development.
- Furthermore, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, states reaffirmed that “democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing; and that the international community should support the strengthening and promoting of democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the entire world.” Let us assure you, that the EU remains committed in this regard.
- It is in this spirit that the EU has been actively involved in the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Right to Development and will further engage at its next session, later on this year.