

In commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, this United Nations publication presents for the first time a wide range of in-depth analytical studies by more than 30 international experts covering the context, meaning and application of this right and its potential to shape human rights and development policy and practice. Together they support the concept of an enabling environment for development that would ensure freedom from want and freedom from fear for all people.

Built around the themes of Situating – Understanding – Cooperating for – and Implementing the right to development, the contributions to this volume not only clarify the meaning and status of this right but survey the most salient challenges—based on actual development practice—to its transformative potential. These studies give specific attention to the context in which this right emerged and the principles underlying it, including active, free and meaningful participation in development and fair distribution of its benefits; equity, equality and non-discrimination; self-determination of peoples and full sovereignty over natural wealth and resources; democratic governance and human rights-based approaches to development; international solidarity and global

governance; and social justice, especially with regard to poverty, women and indigenous peoples. Further, these principles are examined as they are applied to the issues of aid, debt, trade, technology transfer, intellectual property, access to medicines, climate change and sustainable development in the context of international cooperation, Millennium Development Goal 8 and the global partnership for development, including South-South cooperation. Finally, with regard to monitoring, action and the way forward, the concluding chapters consider the role of international law and national and regional experiences and perspectives as well as provisional lessons learned and thoughts for renewal, and review the proposals to monitor progress and enhance institutional support for implementing the right to development in practice.

Taken together, the contributions to this publication illustrate the far-reaching potential of the right to development and its relevance more than 25 years after the adoption of the Declaration. They make the case for reinvigorating this right in order to realize its added value to advancing human rights, development, and peace and security in an increasingly interdependent, fragile and changing world, including in the post-2015 agenda for sustainable development.



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