

Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Contribution to the Summit of the Future

Operationalizing the Right to Development in measuring progress beyond GDP

The right to development supports a new system of measurement that includes indicators referring to **all dimensions of development** as a human right: civil, cultural, economic, political, social, and environmental.

Based on the right-to-development principles of

- the duty to cooperate,
- self-determination of rights-holders,
- protection of rights holders currently excluded from mainstream development, and
- common but differentiated responsibilities,

a new measurement system should:

- enable **monitoring of external assistance** that a State provides or receives;
- allow space for **localization**, enabling rights holders to pursue their own development path;
- have **access to data** on societal groups less able to participate in the fair distribution of the benefits resulting from development;
- include measures that ensure its use will contribute to an **enabling international environment**, including concessional financing, development cooperation, and technology transfer.

GDP remains important as an **indicator of the resource base** of a State. Those with low resource availability face serious obstacles to the realization of the right to development and other human rights. **International cooperation** is essential to provide them with appropriate means and facilities to foster their sustainable development.

“Recognizing that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom”

Preamble, Declaration on the Right to Development

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