

**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA**

**24TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**15-19 MAY 2023**

**ITEM 4.1 – GENERAL STATEMENT**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Malaysia aligns itself with the statements of NAM and the OIC.

1. At the outset, Malaysia joins others to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Zamir Akram for his re-election as the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development. Malaysia looks forward to continuing working together towards the full realisation of the right to development.
2. As a strong proponent of the right to development, Malaysia believes that inclusivity is a key principle in the country’s socio-economic development to ensure all citizens benefit from the growth and development of the country. The right to development should be integrated into States’ plans, programmes and policies in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Malaysia will continue to promote resilient and sustainable development through our policies and initiatives, while safeguarding the welfare of its peoples. Among others, efforts will be enhanced to accelerate the shift to digitalisation, skilled workforce, quality FDIs and strengthening environmental, social and governance principles to ensure the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chair,

1. Thirty-five years ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted this ground-breaking Declaration, pronouncing that development is a right and putting people at the centre of the development process.
2. But after all these years, many countries are still struggling to develop. In recent years, they have been further challenged by the pandemic. Surely, the pandemic must compel us to move beyond rhetoric and focus on practical steps to ensure the full realisation of the Declaration.
3. In this regard, Malaysia strongly urges States to build stronger collaboration and share best practices to promote inclusivity and sustainable development around the world. Together we can realise a mutually reinforcing development and human rights agenda.
4. Malaysia is fully supportive of the process towards deliberating and finalising the Convention on the right to development. We appreciate the Working Group’s tireless efforts in consolidating views and comments from various stakeholders and we look forward for the consideration of the revised draft Convention that we have in front of us today. Malaysia will continue to support the work of this Working Group and all mechanisms of the right to development. We call on all Member States to engage in constructive dialogue, deepen understanding and act in solidarity in advancing the right to development as part of the overall efforts to promote and protect human rights.
5. Finally, Malaysia wishes to emphasise that the realisation of the right to development requires collective effort. Towards this end, the international community must utilise every tool at its disposal as well as foster and promote sustainable partnership at all levels to effectively implement this fundamental right.

Thank you.

**GENEVA**

**15 May 2023**