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**South Centre Statement**

**24th Session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development**

**15 – 19 May 2023**

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,.

We would like to thank you, Mr. Chair, for all the hard work you and the Secretariat have undertaken to organise this important session.

On this occasion, we would like to express our highest appreciation for the tireless work and strong dedication of Mr. Saad Alfarargi as former Special Rapporteur for the Right to Development, and extend warm congratulations and welcome to Mr Surya Deva, as the new Special Rapporteur. We are confident that his expertise will contribute to the endeavour in the full realisation of the Right to Development.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

The current unprecedented global multidimensional and parallel crises have exacerbated the challenges that developing countries have faced for several decades and posed new challenges, reversing in many cases the socio-economic progress made in those countries. Such crises lead to increasing poverty, hunger, and food insecurity affecting in particular the vulnerable groups and at-risk communities. Promoting the implementation of the Right to Development as a duty of the international community can play a critical role in responding to these challenges and be a catalyser for supporting sustainable development initiatives and for a green and inclusive recovery from the COVID pandemic .

After the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development, there is still much to be done to achieve an enabling international framework for the realisation of the Right to Development . Acknowledging the Right to Development's central role for progressing towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda will serve as an essential element for promoting its full realisation.

Importantly, the Declaration on the Right to Development emphasises the international community's shared responsibility to cooperate to achieve the full realisation on the Right to Development. Clarifying conceptual differences on the interpretation of the right to development will contribute to create significant opportunities for expanded international cooperation and mobilize common efforts to achieve the SDGs. This is of particular relevance in the face of the mid-term review of the implementation of the SDGs and of the need to provide guidance on the actions to be taken before 2030 .

Mr Chair and distinguish delegates,

The negotiations you are holding this week on the second revised text of the draft convention on the right to development will be important for promoting exchanges and forging common ground on the text. This process requires a positive engagement not only of developing countries, but also of developed countries and abandoning nationalistic positions that seem to ignore that development in all nations is necessary for a sustainable and peaceful world. This will not be possible if the gaps, imbalances and inequalities in the existing international order are not recognized and effectively addressed.

This Working Group has a remarkable opportunity and potential to encourage and mobilise the participation of all countries with the common objective of allowing every person in this planet to enjoy the benefits of all facets of development. The South Centre as an intergovernmental organisation of the developing countries, stands ready to support States' efforts towards fully realising the right to development.