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**24th SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**SOUTH AFRICA STATEMENT**

**INTERACTTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT AND THE CHAIR OF THE EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THE WORKING GROUP AND ITS RELEVANT AGENDA ITEMS**

**(Agenda Item 4.2)**

**15-19 MAY 2023**

**ROOM XX**

**PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA**

***(Check against Delivery)***

Chairperson,

South Africa aligns itself with the statements of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement.

South Africa welcomes the Special Rapporteur on the Right Development, Mr Surya Deva, and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism, Ms Liliana Valiña, to the 24th Session of the Working Group.

My Delegation further takes this opportunity to congratulate the Special Rapporteur on his recent appointment to this position, in April 2023, by the Council at its 52nd Session.

South Africa appreciates the cumulative work done by the mandate-holders of the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism in their contribution towards the development of a legally binding instrument on the right to development. Their valuable work demonstrates that the right to development embodies the principles of equality, justice, non-discrimination, meaningful participation and international cooperation.

In this regard, we cannot continue to treat the right to development as a concern for developing countries versus developed countries, in the face of global challenges such as poverty and inequality as among those unevenly distributed across all societies irrespective of their GDP. The elaboration of the treaty on the right to development, will therefore set new compliance standards for both developed and developing countries, and ensure that this important right becomes a reality for all.

South Africa values the participation of the Special Rapporteur and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism at the Session and wish to encourage cooperation with these important mandates towards the common goal as articulated in the Declaration on the Right to Development.

I thank you.