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**United Nations Human Rights Council**

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

CLOSING STATEMENT

BY

AMBASSADOR ZAMIR AKRAM

Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development

19 May 2023

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Dear participants,

We have reached the end of the 24th session of the Working Group on the Right to Development.

During this session, we considered and engaged in intergovernmental negotiations on the second revised draft text of the convention on the right to development. I am particularly grateful to all those who actively engaged in these negotiations.

We heard a presentation of the chair-rapporteur of the expert drafting group and had very substantive interactive discussions with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development.

As requested by the Human Rights Council, I will submit a final revised text of the draft convention on the right to development, alongside the annual report of the Working Group, to the Council's September session in 2023. I will recommend to the Council to transmit the draft convention, together with the commentary, to the General Assembly and to recommend to the Assembly to convene an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the mandate to consider the draft convention and conclude the text of an international legally binding instrument on the right to development as soon as possible.

I once again regret that the EU and several other States chose not to participate in the discussion on the draft convention. I once again encourage them to actively engage with the work of this Working Group and in this important effort of international law making.

I have always strived for an inclusive, consensual conduct of the work of this Working Group, and will continue to do so. I thank all of you for your cooperation for the same.

In closing, I thank you again for the confidence placed in me and for your support during the past week. On behalf of the Working Group, I would also like to thank the interpreters and the Conference Service personnel and to the Secretariat members, for their support and efforts to facilitate the smooth conduct of this session.

Thank you!