**UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**24th session of the Working Group on the Right to Development**

**(15 – 19 May 2023)**

**EU Final Statement, 18 May 2023**

Mr. Chairperson-Rapporteur,

Distinguished Delegates,

Dear Colleagues,

I am taking the floor to reiterate that the EU believes that the process must be as inclusive and consensual as possible. This is the only way to ensure universality and that all States take ownership of the process.

The EU has noted that we are far from a consensus, even far from an agreement on the basic principles of this instrument. Various contentious proposals have been made and neither Geneva nor New York is the place or the time to resolve these long-standing differences of positions. Negotiations on a potential instrument with a legally binding nature have always had a consensual approach, with broad support from civil society and rights-holders, and the EU believes that this should not be any different this time around.

Mr Chairperson-Rapporteur, although we see the positive effect that development can have on the promotion and protection of human rights law, the EU believes it is still premature to consider the current draft text as final. We call for the draft convention to comply with international law. We kindly ask for our views to be reflected in the final report.

I thank you.