

**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA**

**23RD SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**16-20 MAY 2022**

**ITEM 4.1 – GENERAL STATEMENT**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

2. At the outset, Malaysia wishes 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.

3. Undeniably, the full operationalisation of the right to development will pave the way for people to enjoy other human rights as they are afforded the opportunities to improve their overall well-being and live in dignity.

4. 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. 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.

5. In light of the current geopolitical tensions, the world is facing the challenges of global food insecurity, rising malnutrition and difficulties in managing limited natural resources. Beyond the suffering and humanitarian crisis, the conflict poses a huge blow to the global economy. Major ripple effects from higher food prices and other global spill overs will profoundly impact the world, especially developing and least developed countries, who depend heavily on food imports. Food insecurity indeed has insidious effects towards the overall implementation and realisation of the right to development.

6. However, in every crisis lies an opportunity. Malaysia is encouraged to witness a positive trend of consuming locally, which also increase greater awareness on subsistence food production and exchange of good agricultural practices. Moving forward, Malaysia believes that stronger regional, international cooperation and integration are necessary to provide the relevant platform for the formulation of collective actions that further advance development in all spheres and human rights. 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.

7. Malaysia is also 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 stand ready for constructive engagements with Member States as well as other stakeholders in advancing the right to development as part of the overall efforts to promote and protect human rights.

8. 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**

**16 May 2022**