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**23RD SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP**

**ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**STATEMENT**

**BY THE**

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**ON**

**ITEM 4: GENERAL STATEMENT**

**16TH MAY, 2022**

**Mr Chairperson,**

Nigeria aligns with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group, the NAM and the OIC respectively. We congratulate His Excellency, Mr. Zamir Akram, on his election as Chair-Rapporteur and reiterate Nigeria’s unflinching support for the work of the Working Group. We commend the Working Group for the continued constructive engagement with all stakeholders, in its efforts to elaborate a legally binding instrument on the right to development. This document undoubtedly provides a comprehensive and coherent set of standards, as well as strengthen the implementation and realization of the right to development.

2. My delegation re-emphasises its firm position that the right to development is a fundamental human right that deserves adequate international attention, given the devastating effect of poverty and inequality, which hampers the full enjoyment of human rights in many parts of the world. It is our firm conviction that the realization of the right to development will ensure peaceful, just, equitable and inclusive societies, anchored on respect for human rights, effective rule of law and good governance, in line with the aspiration of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

3. The right to development is an inalienable right, pertinent to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Agenda. We reiterate that the lack of development opportunities is negatively affecting the well-being of citizens of developing countries, contributing to instability and conflicts as credible threats to international peace and security.

4. As poverty and lack of basic social amenities continue to ravage communities in many parts of the world, we call for a sincere international cooperation and collaboration, to ensure the realization of the right to development, as envisaged by the Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals. We emphasise that the responsibility to promote the right to development does not rest on any individual State, given its universality and applicability. It is to this extent that my delegation wishes to again underscore the importance of international solidarity in the attainment of the objective of the right to development.

5. Indeed, the importance of the realization of the right to development as a precondition for the enjoyment of socio-economic and cultural rights cannot be overstressed. We underscore the need for all stakeholders to renew their commitment to the realization of the right to development and the attainment of the full enjoyment of human rights, as we work stridently towards ensuring the attainment of global peace and security

 I thank you.

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