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**Working Group on the
Right to Development
24th session (15-19 May 2023)
Item 6**

CETIM's oral statement

Mr. President,

As you have said during this session, we are living through a historic moment. On the one hand, the multidimensional crisis is growing throughout the world, and with it, inequalities, environmental degradation and massive violations of human rights. On the other hand, we have enough capacity and means to respond to such crises, provided that States commit themselves to their peoples.

We note with regret that some States have not understood or do not want to understand this historic moment and the potential and importance of this document.

As we have already said, the future Covenant is mature enough to be adopted. While some of the criticisms or proposals we have heard this week have been constructive, others have not, and clearly intended to distort the very content of the future Covenant.

Yet, the objective of this exercise is very clear: to operationalise the right to development.

We regret that the Working Group did not reach a consensus, due to the hostility of some powerful States. On the other hand, we did not understand the position of the delegations of some Southern States that seemed not to understand the very meaning of the right to development. As it has been repeatedly explained in this Working Group, the right to development is a human right, which overarches all other human rights, and is the synthesis of both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

Mr. President,

Allow us to recall two passages from Resolution 1998/72, which originated the mandate of this Working Group, and which some delegations seem to have forgotten. We quote:

“(...) the unacceptable situation of absolute poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, illiteracy and hopelessness remains the lot of over one billion people (...) The existence of widespread absolute poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and renders democracy and popular participation fragile”. End of citation.

Today, 25 years after the adoption of this resolution, the number of suffering people has reached four billion, due to the dominant development model imposed throughout the world. This is why not only natural resources are becoming scarce, but also our natural environment is being severely damaged. This situation will undoubtedly lead to even more destructive conflicts in the future. This means that there is an increasingly urgent need to act.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

We reiterate our thanks to the drafting group for the work done under your leadership, with the support of the Secretariat. We hope that some of the delegations that seem to have lost their way in this room will get back on track in New York.

Mr. President,

We thank you for your attention.

Geneva, 19 May 2023