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GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Oral statement

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Consideration of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development (A/HRC/48/64, 30 June 2021)

Madam President,

CETIM thanks the Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development for the presentation of his report and reiterates its support for the elaboration of a legally binding instrument on this right. The first draft of the Convention is a good basis for the ongoing negotiations and for the effective implementation of the right to development.

During the last session of the Intergovernmental Working Group, we made several proposals to improve the content of the draft convention. Among these, it is worth mentioning the importance of including and developing concepts such as human development and capacity building so that excluded people (poor, peasants, women, indigenous peoples, etc.) can participate in decision-making processes and in the choice of development that best suits them. This should also include the equitable distribution of wealth, which is essential for the continuous improvement of social welfare and thus for the fulfilment of the right to development. Furthermore, the eradication of poverty and the development of decent work should be explicitly included among the objectives of the draft convention.

In the same vein, we do not think it appropriate to define the concept of development in the future convention but, on the contrary, to stick solely to the definition of the right to development as formulated in the Declaration on this right. Indeed, it would be laborious to embark on such a task, given that there is no consensus on it and no single model of development. Moreover, as each people has the right to decide on the development model that



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best suits them, it would be wrong to impose one on them. This is the essence of the right to development.

Madam President,

The CETIM deplores the position of certain States that try to oppose the Sustainable Development Goals to the right to development, whereas without the latter the Goals in question are nothing but an empty shell.

In conclusion, we hope that the future Convention on the Right to Development will contribute to the establishment of a new international economic order based on the sovereignty of peoples and cooperation between States and its implementation in the policies, strategies, and operational activities of the entire UN system, as well as the international financial system and the multilateral and bilateral trade system. For CETIM, the fulfilment of this right will play a decisive role in the fight against the glaring inequalities, the massive violations of human rights and the attacks on the environment on a global scale.

Madam President,

Thank you for your attention.

Geneva, 22 September 2021