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Point 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development

Oral statement

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Review of the Annual Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development¹

President,

We have read the Special Rapporteur's report on the right to development with great interest and noted his confused approach to this right.

According to the Rapporteur, the right to development is "the right to a development process". He conflates development, which is by its very nature a process, with the right to development which is a right as defined in Article 1 of the relevant declaration.

He also seems unaware that the 2030 Agenda and development aid have nothing to do with the right to development, as the latter depends on the goodwill of "wealthy" states and the aid in question is often linked to a trade-off.

The right to development, beyond financial issues, is a human right that encompasses all human rights and emphasises the rights of peoples to self-determination and the sovereignty of states to be able to choose the development model that best suits them.

The rapporteur's "holistic" approach seems to be limited to "gender issues" and the main problem faced by indigenous peoples appears to be "the intensive promotion of renewable energy projects".

President,

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur is not to hold forth on his conception of the right to development, but rather to ensure its implementation. In this context, we have serious doubts about his ability to fulfil his mandate.

Thank you for your attention, President.

Geneva, 20 September 2023

¹ See A/HRC/54/27, 4 August 2023.