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33rd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council – 13-30 September 2016 Item 3 – General Debate

Joint oral statement

Title: Right to Development at 30: time to act!

Mr Chair,

APG23 and 16 co-signing NGOs take note of the two reports on Right to Development delivered at this 33rd session of the Human Rights Council and would like to reiterate the following:

- The 2030 Agenda has been informed by the Declaration on the Right to Development and provides a new impetus for realizing its vision. For the SDGs to be successfully achieved, States should focus on strengthening the Means of Implementation (SDG17) and creating an enabling and equitable global order.
- In implementing and monitoring the SDGs, it is necessary to adopt a Right to Development approach that focus not only on the outcomes but also on the processes through which those outcomes must be achieved.
- The right to development expresses, at the highest level, the values of the United Nations Charter. Its achievement is necessary for the protection, respect and fulfilment of the economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights.
- In order to be authentic, Right to Development must promote the good of every person and the whole person, being the catalyst for the realisation and implementation of Integral Human Development.
- In our interdependent world, the Right to Development is relevant for both developed and developing countries and can give a new human face to the phenomenon of globalization by creating opportunities for all and by limiting its negative effects.
- The set of standards presented by the Chair-Rapporteur of the OEIWG on RTD that are based on consensual and non-controversial understandings among States, should be not the end, but rather the beginning of a journey towards the full implementation of the right to development.
- The slow pace of the OEIWG and the decision at its 17th session to “continue to consider criteria and operational sub-criteria with a view to finalize the text as expeditiously as possible, preferably no later than its nineteenth session” is simply unfair to the peoples of the world,

especially the most vulnerable ones, who have waited for decades to have clear parameters for the implementation of the right to development.

- Member States should start reporting on right to development during the UPR process even if the Declaration is not a legally binding document.

Finally, we second the proposal made by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN), during the panel discussion held in conjunction with the 32nd Session that is, “for the Human Rights Council to propose, and the General Assembly to decide to formally include the Declaration on the Right to Development in the International Bill of Human Rights”.

This will be a tangible sign to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Declaration on Right to Development.

Thank You!