



THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



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STATEMENT BY
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA,
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ON BEHALF OF MEMBER STATES OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) AND CHINA

« THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT »

THE FIRST SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
19 – 30 JUNE 2006

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to address this first session of the Human Rights Council on the right to development. China associates itself with this statement.

Mr. President,

2. This is a significant year insofar as the right to development is concerned as it has already brought us to two decades of work towards realisation of this fundamental human right since the passage of the Declaration on the Right to Development by the UN General Assembly in 1986. It is also significant as we are now at a transition from the Commission on Human Rights to the Human Rights Council, and as we have a collective conviction that this Council shall continue to build on the work done thus far on this inalienable and indivisible human right referred to in the said UN Declaration.

Mr. President,

3. As the Council is considering the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development, let me at the outset convey the NAM's sincere appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Ibrahim Salama of Egypt, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group for his valuable contributions. The NAM wishes to briefly reiterate its basic position as to where it stands as far as the right to development is concerned:

- 3.1 The right to development is a fundamental human right as has been elaborated in several documents, including the UN Declaration on the Right to Development. As stated earlier, it is in fact recognised as an inalienable and indivisible right in this Declaration and the successive documents/resolutions of the UN and relevant international conferences;
- 3.2 The right to development is not just about poverty eradication alone. But it also serves as a bridge between economic, social and cultural rights on the one hand and civil and political rights on the other;
- 3.3 There should be a genuine global partnership to adopt practical measures to realise this right to ensure economic growth and development for all. The Right to Development is not just about mainstreaming human rights into development;
- 3.4 All should strive to make tangible progress in terms of realisation of this right with a view to bridging the ever widening development divide; and

- 3.5 Ultimately, efforts should be undertaken for the elaboration of a convention as an international legal instrument on the right to development. Here, we expect this Human Rights Council to build on the work already accomplished in the Sub-Commission towards this noble objective.

Mr. President,

4. The Working Group on the Right to Development has been the pillar for the entire edifice of the RTD mechanism in the Commission on Human Rights. Since its establishment in 1998, this Working Group has furthered the discussion on the right to development in a manner that has been slow but steady from the NAM's standpoint. There has indeed been significant progress from conceptualization towards concrete action. The establishment of the High level Task Force on the Implementation of the Right to Development within the framework of the Working Group is the case in point. The NAM has welcomed the setting up of this mechanism and has played an active role in laying the ground work for it.

5. The Task Force has held two meetings, the second being in November 2005. The main objective of the meeting was to assist the Working Group towards fulfilment of its mandate as contained in paragraph 10 (a) of the Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/72. The meeting brought together all the important actors and organizations concerned with implementation of the various aspects of the development agenda under one roof with a view to evolving an integrated framework for full realization of the Right to Development. The meeting has focused on Millennium Development Goal-8 (MDG-8) and suggested criteria for periodic evaluation of global partnership for development.

6. In the interest of moving this important process forward, the NAM has agreed that the mandate of the Task Force should be extended for another year. The NAM would encourage the Task Force, in its future work, to come up with action-oriented recommendations that can help integrate the different partnerships into one coherent and global partnership for development, as envisaged in MDG-8. This approach is well entrenched in the Declaration on the Right to Development which provides that "States have the duty to co-operate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development" and that they also "should realize their rights and fulfil their duties in such a manner as to promote a new international economic order based on sovereign equality, interdependence, mutual interest and co-operation among all States."

Mr. President,

7. The NAM believes that the Working Group on the Right to Development should continue its work, now within the framework of this Human Right Council. The significant progress made by the Working Group so far, in particular the unanimous conclusions and recommendations made at its seventh session in January this year, should pave the way for this Council to further inspire a common understanding and approach towards the practical implementation of the right to development. In this regard, the NAM will be tabling at the current Council session a draft resolution that seeks to extend the mandate of this Working Group for a further period of one year, in accordance with Operative Paragraph 6 of General Assembly Resolution 60/251. We will work with all our partners for this purpose.

Thank you.