

Working Group on Right to Development

Mr. Chairperson,

The United States thanks the Council for the opportunity to speak in explanation of our position on the Right to Development.

The U.S. voted against the 1986 UN General Assembly Declaration on a Right to Development. The Declaration defines the Right to Development as two sets of rights, one related to individuals, and the other set related to groups (i.e. peoples). It is at best confusing to use the same term to mean two entirely different things. Certain rights, like the Right to Development, can be attached only to individuals, not groups.

The U.S. interprets the Right to Development as each individual's right to develop his or her own intellectual or other capabilities to the maximum extent possible through the exercise of the full range of civil and political rights.

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The U.S. urges the Council to undertake a complete review of all mandates, including for the Working Group on the Right to Development, in this first year.