



STATEMENT

BY

DR GJ MTSHALI
PERAMENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON THE RIGHT TO
DEVELOPMENT.

GENEVA

26 JUNE 2006

Check against delivery.

Mr President

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement made by the delegation of Malaysia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr President,

It has been twenty years since the Declaration on the Right to Development was proclaimed, yet, there has been no real progress towards its operationalisation.

The Right to Development is by and of itself an inalienable right which, if fully implemented and operationalised, could ensure economic growth and sustainable development for all.

The realisation of the Right to Development should be about the progressive enjoyment of all human rights as enumerated in the two core human rights covenants.

Therefore, in order for the newly-established Human Rights Council to fully address and shape the international human rights agenda, the Right to Development should become a priority of the Council. This right should be fully integrated into the work of the Council. My delegation is of the view that the Council should strive to undertake all the necessary measures to facilitate the full realisation of this Right.

To this end, my delegation calls on the Council to adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the Sixth Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development. We also call on the Council to extend the mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group for a period of one year.

We believe that the Council should build on and expedite the work undertaken by the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights that will lead us to a legally binding instrument on the Right to Development. Similarly, we urge the Sub-Commission to continue to pursue its work in this regard.

Mr President,

South Africa is concerned about the lack of progress in the operationalisation of the Right to Development. We therefore re-iterate the call for the mainstreaming of the Right to Development

internationally and within the policies, operational activities and programmes of the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies.

The Declaration on the Right to Development articulates the direct link between the promotion and protection of human rights, on the one hand, and development on the other. There is a need to further mainstream the Right to Development in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals as well as other International Development Goals and the outcomes of other major international conferences.

My Government will continue to work for the full realisation of the Right to Development in order to win the war against poverty and underdevelopment.

I thank you.