

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 57th SESSION

Interactive dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the right to development

18 September 2024

Mr. Mihir Kanade, Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development presented the Annual Report and a thematic study on “Individual and collective dimensions of the right to development”, recognizing the urgency for collective action and international cooperation to address the climate crisis, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of national circumstances. Successful development cooperation should ensure respect for national policy space, foster innovation, strengthen monitoring and evaluation, be aligned with national priorities and frameworks, and enhance national capacities to overcome absorption challenges, including in project and data management.

Access to technology is a critical component of the right to development and the digital economy and artificial intelligence are exponents of existing gaps between and among countries, but also opportunities to accelerate and diversify development processes, especially if their inherent risks are adequately addressed. The challenges women face to realize their right to development such as discrimination, stereotypes, violence, poverty, excessive care responsibilities, and gender gaps as well as the digital divide. Women’s active, free and meaningful participation in development, and especially in decision-making, is essential.

The thematic study explores the individual and collective dimensions of the right to development in its three substantive elements: participation, equality of development opportunity and self-determination. All these three elements have individual and collective dimensions. Individual freedoms and societal advancement are not competitive but complementary. The right to development asserts that personal liberties, such as access to education, health care, and cultural engagement, are integral to societal growth. Conversely, it also asserts that collective welfare, such as ensuring peace, sustainable development and a healthy environment, is vital if individuals are to enjoy their rights fully. It also provides guidance on how to resolve situations where there is a real or apparent conflict between an individual’s right to development and the collective right of peoples to development.

To conclude, when development is approached holistically as both an individual and collective human right, it fosters an environment where individuals and communities can contribute to, and benefit from the shared progress of humanities.

Interactive dialogue

30 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue. **The majority of the countries, including the NAM and the Syrian Arab Republic** expressed their deep concern about the challenges and obstacles that the mechanism of the right to development continues to face and reminded all states of the duty to take steps to facilitate the full realization of the right to development. **Countries** focused on National policies, initiatives, and legal frameworks to face challenges including poverty, water shortage, and climate change in order for the right to development to be realized for all. **Kuwait** shared national activities and initiatives in achieving women's empowerment. Women hold leadership positions in the private and public sectors and contribute to achieving sustainable development. By saying that human beings are at the core of every development process and that the right to development is a collective right to people, **Oman** reiterated that its programs and strategies aimed

at fulfilling the rights of individuals, social, economic, and all other rights, including the right to life, right to health, and decent living.

The EU underscored that inclusive and sustainable development can only be achieved through the full realization of all human rights for which each state has the obligation and primary responsibility. Key to development is the full and effective implementation of existing international human rights obligations. Addressing multiple and intersecting discrimination is particularly important in this regard. **Cuba and Venezuela** focused on UCMs violating the right to development for the whole population of a state.

NGOs concluded that without the enjoyment of the right to self-determination, the enjoyment of other human rights just remains a pipe dream. Enhancement of the right to development has a central role in international peace and security. They called for comprehensive reforms in global governance and international economic and financial systems to facilitate equitable development for all. Condemning the UCMs, **NGOs** affirmed that sanctions that directly violated international law are causing significant harm to the economic and social well-being of the people, as well as to their right to development. Unilateral sanctions by imposing restrictions on foreign investment, financial banking relations, and cutting of exports and imports, have created obstacles in the development of countries.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (30 country delegations):

European Union, Uganda (on behalf of NAM), Kuwait, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Oman, Brazil, Iraq, Colombia, Algeria, Indonesia, Malawi, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, Cuba, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Mauritania, Venezuela, Ethiopia, China, Uganda, Syrian Arab Republic, Namibia, India, Eritrea, OIC.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (11):

Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Centre Europe - tiers monde, Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute, Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute, Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, Chunhui Children's Foundation, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Action Canada for Population and Development, Beijing Guangming Charity Foundation, Africa Culture Internationale, China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture (CAPDTC).

To watch the full meeting refer to the UN WEB TV: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).