

The Right to Development*

– Extracts –

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, expressing in particular the determination to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom as well as to employ international mechanisms for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling all its previous resolutions relating to the right to development, in particular resolutions 1996/15, 1997/72, 1998/72, 1999/79 and 2000/5, as well as those of the General Assembly, and welcoming Assembly resolution 55/108,

Recalling also that the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986 confirmed that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals, who make up nations,

...
Taking note of the three studies prepared by the independent expert on the right to development and his proposed possible approaches to the operationalization of the right to development,

...
Welcoming the commitment made by heads of State and Government in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to make the right to development a reality for everyone and their resolve to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty, and their commitment to spare no effort to promote good governance and democracy and to strengthen the rule of law as well as respect for all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms,

* E/CN.4/RES/2001/9. Adopted by a roll-call vote of 48 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions. 18 April 2001. See also page 129.

including the right to development,

Underlining that meeting the objectives of good governance also depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and an open, equitable, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system,

Underlining also the fact that realization of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

...
Recalling the need for coordination and cooperation throughout the United Nations system for a more effective promotion and realization of the right to development,

...
1. **Welcomes** the holding of two sessions of the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development (18-22 September 2000 and 29 January – 2 February 2001) which focused on certain issues, as reflected in the report of the open-ended Working Group, and emphasizes the need to continue deliberations on the right to development in all its aspects, *inter alia* on the basis of the report of the open-ended Working Group and the Chairperson's conclusions, as well as comments submitted thereon;

2. **Emphasizes** that on the basis of the text of the Declaration on the Right to Development of 1986, several resolutions and declarations adopted by consensus at subsequent international conferences and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993, it should now be possible to reach consensus on the full implementation of the right to development;

3. **Expresses its appreciation** of the reports of the independent expert and his additional work on and clarifications of the "development compact" proposal, which

contributed to a better understanding of this proposal, while recognizing that further clarification is still needed;

4. **Recognizes** that any "development compact" would be of a voluntary nature for all parties involved and that its content would be defined on a case-by-case basis and be adapted to the priorities and realities of any country willing to conclude such a compact, which would need the adherence and the support of all international actors involved in its implementation;

5. **Requests** the independent expert to clarify further the proposed "development compact", taking into consideration views expressed during the two sessions of the Working Group and in broad consultation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as specialized agencies, relevant international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and, in particular, those actors and States interested in developing pilot projects in this regard, keeping in mind:

(a) The ongoing bilateral, regional and multilateral development cooperation programmes;

(b) The formulation of an operational model for the "development compact";

(c) The views of concerned international organizations and agencies and relevant regional institutions and actors;

(d) The need to ensure its added value to and complementarity with the relevant existing mechanisms;

(e) The need to address and remedy the national and international dimensions of corruption;

(f) The need for country-specific studies both from a national and an international perspective;

6. **Reaffirms** that States have the primary responsibility for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development and that they are committed to cooperating with each other to that end;

7. **Also reaffirms** that the realization of the right to development is essential to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which regards all human rights as universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and which also places the human person at the centre of development and recognizes that while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights;

8. ...

9. **Also recognizes** that for many developing countries, the realization of the rights to, *inter alia*, food, health and education may be important development entry points to the realization of the right to development and that, in this context, the independent expert's concept of a "development compact" intends to give expression to some basic tenets of the interdependence of all human rights and national ownership of development strategies and development programmes, as well as the importance of international cooperation;

10. **Further recognizes** the need for a discussion on a suitable permanent follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the right to development in the future, in the Working Group on the Right to Development;

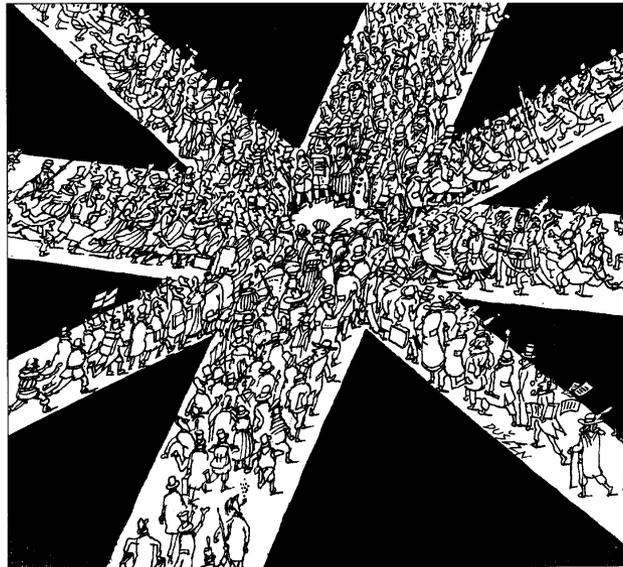
11. **Stresses** the necessity of establishing, at the national level, an enabling legal, political, economic and social environment for the realization of the right to development and emphasizes the importance of democratic, participatory, transparent and accountable governance, as well as the need for efficient national mechanisms such as national human rights commissions, to ensure respect for civil, economic, cultural, political and social rights, without any distinction;

12. ...

15. **Also affirms** the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective means to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate sustainable development, as well as the importance of equal rights and opportunities for women and men, including property rights for women and their access to

bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, taking into account the best practices of micro-credit in different parts of the world;

16. **Underlines** that in the process of the realization of the right to development, special attention should be given to persons belonging to minorities, whether national, ethnic, religious or linguistic, as well as to persons belonging to vulnerable groups, for instance elderly people, indigenous



Courtesy: Dusan Petric for
The New York Times Book Review

people, persons facing discrimination on multiple grounds, Roma, migrants, persons with disabilities, children and persons infected with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and that this attention should have a gender perspective;

17. **Affirms** in this context that attention should also be given to the right to development of children, with special attention to the rights of the girl child;

18. ...

20. **Reiterates** that the gap between developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide, that developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process and that many risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;

21. **Recognizes**, while bearing in mind the existing efforts in this respect, that it is necessary to enhance efforts to consider and evaluate the impact of international economic and financial issues on the enjoyment of human rights, such as:

- (a) International trade issues;
- (b) Access to technology;
- (c) Good governance and equity at the international level; and
- (d) Debt burden;

22. **Requests** the independent expert to prepare, in consultation with all relevant United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, a preliminary study on the impact of these issues on the enjoyment of human rights, starting by analysing the existing efforts and means of assessing and evaluating such an impact, for consideration by the Working Group at its future sessions;

23. ...

24. **Requests** the open-ended Working Group on the right to development as well as the independent expert on the right to development, to consider, as appropriate, the relevant economic and developmental outcomes of the international conferences, *inter alia* the South Summit of the Group of Seventy-seven and the follow-up thereto, in elaborating their recommendations for the implementation of the right to development;

25. **Decides**, in view of the urgent need to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, and based on the established practice of the Commission on Human Rights:

(a) To extend the mandate of the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development for one year;

(b) To extend the mandate of the independent expert for three years;

26. **Recommends** that the Economic and Social Council endorse the Commission's decision contained in the preceding paragraph;

27. **Decides** to continue consideration of the issue of the right to development, as a matter of priority, at its fifty-eighth session.

