



*Commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of
the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development*

**ECOSOC special event on
“The right to development and global partnership for development”
12 July 2011, 4-6 PM, room XIX, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland**

Comments made by Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

12 July 2011

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver those comments on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement that places the right to development and its full realisation at the top of its priorities. We are particularly welcome the presence today of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Navi Pillay, of the President of the Human Rights Council H.E. Ambassador Laura Dupuy Lasserre, and of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Mr. Sha Zukang, which testifies to their commitment to the agenda of the right to development.

I would like to thank the distinguished speakers Professor Shue and H.E. Dupuy Lasserre for their participation and insightful input and express satisfaction that we are holding this event today as part of the ECOSOC as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Right to development. Appreciation is due to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the dedicated staff for the visible attention given to the commemoration of this anniversary, and the commitment to promoting and mainstreaming this right across the UN system. We would like to encourage the OHCHR to continue working diligently in this domain.

In the past few years, we have witnessed a confluence of global crises and their compounded impacts, in particular in and on developing countries. Lately we are witnessing waves of change sweeping the Arab world, which in themselves open the door for positive promises for the future while at the same time posing further challenges to development aspirations. Against this backdrop, it is now more than ever that we have to highlight the international duty to cooperate, a principle that is incarnated in the right to development. The right to development is an individual

and collective right entailing individual and collective responsibilities on states for the creation of an international and thereby a national environment favourable to the realisation of this right. In fulfilling the duty to cooperate, the international community would be in a better position to align itself with the principle of mutual accountability and shared responsibility whence springs the notion of international cooperation.

In promoting the right to development, as an individual and a collective right, NAM underscores the aim to mainstream the development perspective into human rights issues at the normative and operational levels. In other words, the right to development as an overarching umbrella right needs to be fully realised contributing to the full realisation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on the ground. Mainstreaming the right to development in development activities entails an assessment of the impact of development and development-related policies and programmes on the realisation of this right.

In light of this, it is opportune that we are discussing this issue within ECOSOC, with its mandate of coordinating economic, social and related work of the UN specialized agencies as well as functional and regional commissions. In fulfilling this mandate, in particular with regard to policy coherence, we have to live up to our commitments declared in the 2000 Millennium Summit of making the right to development a reality for everyone and the 2010 MDGs Review Summit that reaffirmed this right. This requires an assessment of how far coordinated activities of the United Nations have contributed to the realisation of this right, and of how far it has been taken into account or incorporated in the design and implementation of development policies and programmes at the international, regional and national levels. It has to be noted that in addressing the right to development in conjunction with the MDGs attention has been given to the MDG8 on the global partnership for development. However, today's global challenges require us to go beyond the MDGs and not limit ourselves to only those partnerships under MDG8.

In tandem, we have to recognise the global challenges and impediments to equitable development among nations and hence an impediment to the realisation of the right to development. Such impediments lie in the mal-functioning of the international economic, financial and trading as well as political systems, including the lack of democracy in global decision-making. Addressing those imbalances and impediments requires a more fair and just system governing trade, foreign direct investment, migration, intellectual property, flow of capital and labour. There is a need for a deeper reflection of how to address the concerns over inadequate resources, including the obstacles relating to the unfulfilled commitments towards aid, unsustainable debt burdens, and restrictions on labour flows from developing to developed countries, and lack of technology transfer to developing countries, in particular quality-wise. Issues that merit closer attention also include the lack of equitable participation of developing countries in international decision and policy

making. In other words, there is a lack of democracy in global governance, as well as imbalances in global trade regimes, and unfulfilled promises of promoting conditions that sustain peace and security, and ensuring country ownership of development policies through, inter alia, policy space. This is not a comprehensive list of obstacles and is not reproduced here for the sake of rhetoric but rather for detailed and sincere reflection.

In closing, I would again reiterate the call that we embark on an assessment of how far the coordinated action of the United Nations system has adequately incorporated the right to development through the launching of an impact assessment exercise taking as a reference point the UN Declaration on the Right to development that identifies this right as an individual and collective right by the virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. This would ultimately lead us to strike the proper balance and coherence in UN work on the ground, drawing from the nexus between human rights and development.

