



**THE TWELFTH SESSION
OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT
Palais des Nations, Room XVI
14-18 November 2011**

**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE
CHAIRPERSON-RAPPORTEUR OF THE WORKING
GROUP
14 November 2011**

Madame High Commissioner,
Distinguished delegates,
Excellencies
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to have this opportunity to chair this important meeting, in particular during this 25th Anniversary year. I would like to thank the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, for being here with us to present opening remarks. Your continued attention and dedication to the right to development in particular during the anniversary year is highly appreciated.

We already had a series of informal consultations prior to this session and I am convinced that open dialogue in a constructive spirit will help us in our discussions this week.

In an era of enhanced globalization there is an increasing need for international solidarity. The global financial, economic, food, political and environmental crisis and their effects on developing countries has further enhanced the need to cooperate, which is the essence of the right to development.

Poverty, exploitation, injustice and inequality are an affront to humanity and a violation of human rights. We must share our energies to end poverty through the creation of an appropriate environment to realize the right to development. The enjoyment of human rights is only possible if States create an enabling environment. International intergovernmental institutions should function in a transparent and accountable manner.

It is imperative that we move forward, 25 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development and identify concrete ways and means to put the commitments and promises included in the landmark instrument into practice, especially in the removal of obstacles to the implementation of the right to development.

Let us take an object look at the work undertaken so far. Let us consider with an open spirit the various comments and points made in the submissions received, which we have before us. Let us further

bear in mind the many ideas and suggestions made during the anniversary year in the numerous commemorative events.

This is an opportunity to reflect critically about the next steps going forward, drawing from the experience and knowledge accumulated over the years.

Let us remind ourselves in this context of our mandate to monitor and review progress in the promotion and implementation of the right to development, analyse obstacles to its full enjoyment and provide recommendations. Our work is critically important for the lives of more than one billion mal-nourished people, for the future generations who will judge on the basis of our legacy for their sustainable development.

I am confident that we will find consensus at this session on the way forward in the implementation of the right to development.

Thank you.