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

Human Rights Council panel on
“The way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice”
14 September 2011 (to be confirmed), 10 AM-1 PM (to be confirmed)
room XX, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Background

4 December 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development by the General Assembly (resolution 41/128). The Declaration promulgated the first comprehensive elaboration of the substantive content of the right to development.

The Human Rights Council requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultations with UN Member States and other relevant stakeholders, to launch preparations for the commemoration of the 25th anniversary (resolution 15/25). Within this framework, the Council decided to hold a panel during its eighteenth session on the theme “The way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice”, with the participation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (decision 16/117).

Objectives of the panel

- Enhance understanding of the contribution and potential of the Declaration on the Right to Development to development thinking, policy and practice;
- Reflect on how the right to development can be implemented in the context of contemporary political, social, environmental and financial challenges;
- Contribute to shaping future work on the effective implementation of the right to development.

Modalities of the panel

The panel will be moderated by the President of the Human Rights Council who will open and close the meeting. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights will make an opening statement. Thereafter, the panel will view a 3 minute video clip produced by OHCHR for the commemoration of the 25th anniversary (to be confirmed).

The video clip will lead into the presentations by the panellists, which will be followed by an interactive discussion to be divided into two slots of 60 minutes (45 minutes for comments and questions from the floor, followed by 15 minutes for comments and replies by panellists).

Member States, National Human Rights Institutions, International Organizations and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to participate and contribute to the debate, subject to the modalities and the practice of the Council. In particular, NGO coordination is strongly encouraged to maximize the use of time.

Outcome:

As requested in Council decision 16/117, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will prepare a summary of the panel discussions, to be submitted to the Working Group on the Right to Development at its twelfth session (14-18 November 2011) and to the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth session (March 2012).