



Statement by His Excellency Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu,
Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations
and Other International Organizations in Geneva at the
51st Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 3: General debate
Report of the Working Group on the Right to Development
Geneva, 21 September 2022

Mr. President,

The Holy See takes this opportunity to note the Report of the Working Group on the Right to Development (A/HRC/51/39), and welcomes the progress made towards the preparation of a Draft Convention.

Whilst recognizing the positive spirit of the draft Convention to “promote and ensure the full, equal and meaningful enjoyment of the right to development by every human person and all peoples everywhere”, the Holy See reiterates its view that the right to development must be firmly rooted in the inherent dignity of the human person.

Indeed, human rights are not artificial constructs, nor are they the result of majority opinion. Consequently, the mechanisms and instruments designed to ensure the promotion and protection of these rights cannot be reduced to the mere intersection of national or ideological interests, but rather must be clearly and unambiguously developed in relation to their underlying values, namely, protecting the human dignity of each person and promoting the common good.

For these reasons, the Holy See has proposed that the draft Convention on the Rights to Development should be strengthened by more explicit references to the relation between the inherent dignity of all members of the human family and the derivative right to development. Such references would help to mitigate ambiguous interpretations regarding the various rights and duties incumbent on individuals, groups, organizations, and States.

Mister President,

The Holy See further stresses that the right to development must not be limited to its economic and social dimensions but rather should adopt a holistic and integral perspective that recognizes the link between the right to development and the common good and solidarity among generations.

As Pope Francis has warned, we must recognize that “every human being has the right to live with dignity and to develop integrally; this fundamental right cannot be denied by any country. [...] Unless this basic principle is upheld, there will be no future either for fraternity or for the survival of humanity”¹.

Thank you, Mister President.

¹ Pope Francis, Encyclical Letter *Fratelli tutti*, 3 October 2020, n. 107.