



WFWPI Closing Statement to the Human Rights Council's 21st Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/ahrc4864-report-working-group-right-development-its-twenty-first-session-geneva>

May 17-21, 2021

Delivered by Carolyn Handschin

Honorable Chair Akram, thank you for your wise facilitation.

Distinguished representatives of Member states and fellow NGO members. As we closely observed the discussions and debates during the week lining out the draft convention, we would like to firstly express our appreciation to the efforts taken by the drafting committee and other member states who actively and thoughtfully engaged in the discussions. Thank you for the generous space for NGOs to give voice, a good model of partnership that seems to be weakening in some international arenas. We are here not only representing the WFWPI, but a larger network of international NGO's working with the UN in Geneva, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

We would like to support the concerns raised by various states regarding poverty, the status of least developing countries and the role of developed nations in insisting on filling the gaps in global parity.

On the other hand, we also understand the difficulty in reaching a common consensus. We strongly encourage member states to prioritise the lives of the victims... of poverty, conflict, underdevelopment and disenfranchisement and dare to anticipate positive outcomes to a new level of commitment to this convention.

We also would like to emphasize that this is not just the role of developing and least developed nations to focus on the realisation of the Right to Development, it is rather also importantly the duty and will eventually be the pride of developed nations to make global equality a reality, albeit, step by step... We at WFWPI would like to pledge our support to work for the realisation of this right and support member states in all possible ways as well. Vice versa, we request the member states to actively engage with civil society in decision making, advocacy and strategic conversation, giving you and us, together, a hope for the full implementation of the right to development.

We thank you all for the serious debates, and your commitment to taking this important step within the human rights agenda.

BACKGROUND

At this session, the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development continued reviewing the progress made in the implementation of the right to development. It held an interactive dialogue with

the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the right to development and the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and considered contributions made by States and stakeholders to the implementation of the right to development including in the context of national implementation of the SDGs.

The Working Group also commenced the discussion of a draft legally binding instrument on the right to development.