



WOMEN'S FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL

WFWPI Closing Oral Statement to the Human Rights Council's 23rd Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/events/2022/23rd-session-working-group-right-development>

Delivered by Carolyn Handschin
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Honorable Chair, Experts, Distinguished delegates, Fellow civil society members,

Surging inequalities, unforeseen conflicts and severe violations of human rights globally has been alarming. In many instances, those violations are never heard on international platforms, nor local. **This is because there is no specific mechanisms to hold those violations accountable.** Right to Development in these instances provides a concrete mechanism for understanding of the needs and privileges of every individual, community, and country to be heard and protected. It will build momentum to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals because it is so **important to prioritize the needs and choices of the people while constructing and implementing policies.**

We have noted the lack of growing participation of members and civil society in discussions and commitments to realize the right to development which we cannot blame on Covid. Amongst civil society, we have also noticed that there exists a **knowledge gap of the right to development**, which is very unfortunate, but solvable.

The **Declaration on the Right to Development** recognises active, free and meaningful participation as crucial elements of development. For the welfare of all people, **especially those in the least developed and developing countries, in conflict zones and poverty**, it is important for the global community to actively participate in meaningful discussions and negotiations that connect them to a global identity and awareness of the value of a historic binding agreement Right to Development. If we are wise, we need only look how the SDG's have stimulated "global community and family" and through a sense of "ownership" through participation. The momentum is there, and it is to everyone's benefit to build on it.

Participation is the key here, for which Women's Federation For World Peace International requests all member states and civil society participants to commit themselves to meaningful discussions, and achieve results which benefit all and especially the marginalized and those vulnerable. **We pledge our commitment and support to the legally binding instrument on the Right to Development.**

We believe, The United Nations mechanisms and mandates alone cannot foster and champion negotiations without promoting the incentive for broad active participation. **As universal human rights are, so is the duty to protect those rights through participation, negotiation, commitment and compliance.** With much hope and commitment, we thank the gathering for this opportunity.



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Background:

At this session, the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development continued reviewing 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 the revised draft convention on the right to development.