

**32nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Panel on the 30th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development
Geneva - June 2016**

Mr Chair,

APG23 and the co-signing NGOs appreciate that the Human Rights Council decided to convene this Panel discussion on the promotion and protection of the right to development as part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development.

There are still great obstacles in the realization of the right to development due mainly to the long-standing politicization in the debate on this right. People, especially those in situations of extreme poverty, continue to exceedingly and unnecessarily suffer for the lack of will by States to implement this right.

We hope that this Panel will be a cornerstone to get over this politicization. A clear sign of this politicization is the delay of the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Right to Development, which recently announced the continuation of the reading of the criteria and operational sub-criteria for another two years. We can do nothing else than share with you our big disappointment.

We want to encourage the States to end the polarization that has characterized last year negotiations and to work effectively and speedily towards the adoption of meaningful criteria and operational sub-criteria for the implementation of the right to development.

The Declaration on the Right to Development says in the preamble “development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population”. In a context of multiple crises, the implementation of the right to development is more needed than ever.

A right to development approach has been used in the elaboration of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. We are happy to see that in this matter there has been a consensus and we hope that this instrument will contribute to the realization of the Right to Development. SDG 17 should be used in order to unlock the hot points of the controversy, especially concerning finance, technology, trade and multi-stakeholders partnerships.

Thank you.