



## **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 filing 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 WFWP 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.



**WOMEN'S FEDERATION**  
FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL

***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.*



**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  
May 19, 2022

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.



**WOMEN'S FEDERATION**  
FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL

***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.*