

Working Group of governmental experts
on the right to development

First Session

Geneva, 20-24 July 1981

Working paper submitted by Cuba

Draft Declaration on the Right to Development

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that among the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations is to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian nature, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Considering that under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration can be fully realized,

Considering further that the Declaration itself lays down the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living and to the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality,

Reiterating the need to create at the national and international levels conditions for the full promotion and protection of the human rights of individuals and peoples,

Considering that the sovereign right of peoples and nations over their wealth and natural resources should be respected and that such wealth and resources should be at the service of their respective peoples,

Considering that the elimination of the massive and flagrant violations of the human rights of the peoples and persons affected by situations such as those resulting from colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, all forms of racial discrimination, foreign domination and occupation, aggression and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity and the refusal to recognize the fundamental right of peoples to self-determination and of all nations to exercise full sovereignty over their wealth and natural resources would contribute to the establishment of circumstances propitious to the development of a great part of mankind,

Considering likewise that the present unjust international economic order is an obstacle to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that the struggle for peace is equivalent to the struggle for development,

Recognizing further that there can be neither peace nor development without an era of large-scale co-operation among all nations, based on respect for every people's self-determination with regard to the choice of the system under which they want to live,

Bearing in mind that it is necessary for each State to assume the main role in ensuring such development for its nationals as would allow and promote popular involvement in the development process and facilitate the economic and social reforms it requires,

Recognizing that it is necessary to reaffirm universal recognition of the right to development as a human right and equality of opportunity for development as a prerogative both of nations and of the individuals who make up nations,

Considering that the right to development is an inalienable collective right belonging to all peoples,

Solemnly proclaims the following Declaration:

Article 1

The right to development is a human right and equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of the individuals who make up nations.

Article 2

The human being should be the central objective of development. An adequate development policy should have the human being as the main participant and beneficiary of development.

Article 3

1. Development, conceived as a whole, is not just economic, but also social.
2. Minimum essential elements of development are access to health, education and employment, and it is necessary to ensure them through national and international action.

Article 4

For full and universal achievement of development it is necessary to eliminate the massive and flagrant violations of the human rights of the peoples and persons affected by situations such as those resulting from apartheid, all forms of racial discrimination, colonialism, foreign domination and occupation, aggression and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, and the refusal to recognize the fundamental right of peoples to self-determination and of all nations to exercise full sovereignty over their wealth and natural resources.

Article 5

Every State should assume the main role in ensuring development for its nationals. Full sovereignty over national economic resources should be exercised in the interest of the broad popular masses.

Article 6

Every State should allow and promote popular involvement in the development process and carry out the economic and social reforms it requires.

Priority should be given to the integration of women into the development process, and their equality of rights should be ensured and made effective.

Article 7

Every State should promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security, which are essential for full realization of the right to development.

Article 8

1. Every State should work to make a reality of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian nature and in promoting and encouraging respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.
2. As a complement to the efforts every developing country should make to secure its own development and regardless of the assistance such countries may give each other, it is necessary to provide them with abundant, systematic and effective international co-operation which will allow them to increase their development resources adequately.

Article 9

Priority should be given to the establishment of a new international economic order which will help to place developing countries in a position to achieve true economic independence and to create material and spiritual conditions to provide an adequate standard of living for the population.

Article 10

An era of large-scale co-operation among all nations should be inaugurated, based on respect for the self-determination of every people with regard to the choice of the system under which they want to live.