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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Association PANAFRICA, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[27 January 2025]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Advancing Development in Africa – Morocco’s Commitment to South-South Cooperation

1. The Right to Development:

The right to development, enshrined in the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development, affirms that development is an inalienable human right. It encompasses economic, social, cultural, and political dimensions, emphasizing the need for sustainable and inclusive progress.

In Africa, the realization of this right remains a challenge due to persistent poverty, inequality, inadequate infrastructure, and external factors such as climate change and global economic shocks. However, several African countries have made commendable efforts to create conditions conducive to development while prioritizing equity, sustainability, and human rights.

2. Morocco: A Model for Sustainable Development

Morocco has emerged as a leader in implementing policies aligned with the right to development, particularly through its focus on sustainability and human development.

2.1 Renewable Energy as a Driver of Development

Morocco has made significant strides in renewable energy, particularly through its investment in solar and wind power. The Noor Ouarzazate Solar Complex, one of the largest in the world, exemplifies how sustainable energy projects can create jobs, enhance energy access, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

2.2 Social Development and Regional Integration

The National Initiative for Human Development (INDH) launched by Morocco has focused on combating poverty, reducing inequality, and improving access to education and healthcare. The INDH has directly benefitted marginalized communities, demonstrating the country’s commitment to inclusive development.

Recommendations:

1. Strengthen international partnerships to expand renewable energy projects across Africa.
2. Share best practices in social development programs with other nations.

3. Benin: A Commitment to Governance and Economic Growth

Benin has prioritized governance reforms and economic development to advance the right to development.

3.1 Digital Transformation for Development

Benin’s government has embraced digital technology to improve public administration and enhance service delivery. Initiatives such as e-government platforms and digital financial inclusion have significantly improved transparency and efficiency in governance.

3.2 Agricultural Reforms and Food Security

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of Benin's economy. The government has implemented reforms to modernize the sector, support smallholder farmers, and improve food security. These efforts have not only boosted economic growth but also improved livelihoods in rural areas.

Recommendations:

1. Expand digital infrastructure to rural areas for inclusive development.
2. Promote regional cooperation on food security initiatives.

4. Burundi: Overcoming Challenges Through Resilience

Despite facing significant challenges, Burundi has made progress in advancing the right to development through community-based initiatives and partnerships.

4.1 Grassroots Development Programs

Burundi's government has implemented community-based projects focused on education, health, and women's empowerment. These programs emphasize local ownership and participation, ensuring that development efforts respond to the needs of the population.

4.2 Regional Integration and Trade

As a member of the East African Community (EAC), Burundi has leveraged regional integration to improve trade and attract investment. The country is working to strengthen its infrastructure and create a more conducive environment for economic growth.

Recommendations:

1. Enhance support for community-based initiatives through international funding.
2. Strengthen regional trade networks to foster economic resilience.

5. Senegal: A Champion of Human Development

Senegal has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the right to development through innovative policies and programs aimed at improving living standards.

5.1 The Emerging Senegal Plan (PSE)

The PSE is Senegal's blueprint for economic transformation, focusing on infrastructure development, industrialization, and social inclusion. The plan has attracted significant investment and created jobs, particularly in sectors such as energy, agriculture, and tourism.

5.2 Investment in Education and Health

Senegal has prioritized education and healthcare as cornerstones of its development strategy. Programs to expand access to quality education and universal health coverage have had a positive impact on human capital development.

Recommendations:

1. Scale up investments in education and healthcare to address regional disparities.
2. Foster partnerships with international stakeholders to support the PSE.

6. Challenges and Opportunities in Advancing the Right to Development

Despite these successes, Africa faces ongoing challenges, including:

- Climate change : Rising temperatures and extreme weather events threaten agricultural productivity and livelihoods.
- Debt burden: Many African countries struggle with unsustainable debt levels, limiting their ability to invest in development.
- Global inequalities: Unequal access to technology, vaccines, and financial resources hampers progress.

To address these challenges, the international community must :

1. Provide debt relief and concessional financing to African countries.
2. Support technology transfer and capacity-building initiatives.
3. Strengthen international cooperation to combat climate change and its effects on development.

7. Conclusion

The examples of Morocco, Benin, Burundi, and Senegal demonstrate that progress on the right to development is possible, even in the face of significant challenges. These countries have shown that by prioritizing sustainability, inclusivity, and governance, development can be achieved in a manner that respects human rights.

We urge the Human Rights Council to:

- Recognize and support the efforts of African nations in advancing the right to development.
 - Advocate for increased international assistance to address the structural challenges facing the continent.
 - Promote the sharing of best practices to ensure sustainable and inclusive development across Africa.
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