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THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

**Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
(ODVV), 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.

[1 February 2004]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Despite all the international efforts there are still a large number of people of the world go to bed hungry, and only get the barest of necessities in life. Most of the programs and strategies that have been implemented by the United Nations have not been able to reach the objectives that they were set out to achieve, and the divide between rich and poor exists.

According to a report by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), there are over a billion people in the world whose income is less than one US dollar a day. There are over 112 million children who do not go school. Each year 11 million children throughout the world die before they reach the age of 5, because of preventative illnesses. There are over 40 million people infected with HIV/AIDS.

In the preamble of UN Declaration of the Right to Development (General Assembly Resolution 41/128) it states that "...the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals who make up nations..." Article 5 of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action (1993) states, "All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated."

Therefore, in view of the reciprocal link between democracy, development and observation of human rights, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence believes that equal attention should be given to economic, social, cultural rights and the right to development, along with civil and political rights. Today, everyone accepts the fact that acceptance of human rights cannot be conflicting with economic, social and cultural rights, and particularly the right to development.

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence believes that although development creates the foundation for the benefiting from all human rights, but the lack of development must not become an excuse for the limitation of universally recognized rights. As Amartya Sen the Nobel Prize winner in economics says, "increasing and strengthening human freedom, is both the aim of development and its primary mechanism."

At the dawn of the Third Millennium and the age of globalization, poverty has turned into one of the main sources of threat to mankind, and one of the important challenges in the way of accessing sustainable development. The ODVV therefore believes that the immediate eradication of poverty must be adopted into the global plans and strategies.

Illiteracy is also a great obstacle in the way of participation in economic and social activities. Therefore, in view of the fact that one of the mechanisms to achieve development is through participation in all sections of society, public education to eradicate illiteracy, standardization of conditions to access education for all of mankind – particularly women and girls – in lesser developed countries are all some of the important objectives in reaching human development. Therefore we emphasize that the creation of social opportunities through education, have direct effects on the basic rights of individuals.

One of the new solutions is to make development rights based. Rights based development can become a factor for the promotion and protection of human rights. In rights based development, monitoring the implementation of development programs, enabling of all sections of society and the acceptance of responsibility of all those involved in development programs,

are all of the important mechanisms. In rights based development, acceptance of responsibility plays a key role, and in this scene people are actively involved in shaping their own destinies, and not the receivers of the benefits of development programs.

On this basis, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence believes that free and motivated participation of individuals, groups and organizations, civil society and governments, form the correct policies for the basis of sustainable development, and this requires effective national policies with international cooperation.

The respect to human rights not only is not an obstacle in the way of development, but it also makes achieving development easier. Thus, poverty and lack of development can never be a license to violate human rights, but they form the prelude to violence against peace and international security, which makes everyone responsible to work towards sustainable development.

The right to development is an inalienable part of human rights, and the development process is a multi-purpose process which includes cultural, social, economic and political elements. Therefore to this direction, national and international cooperation and the implementation of effective plans and policies by various institutions, such as individuals, civil societies, governmental and international organizations are vital.

The ODVV believes that NGOs can play a very active and significant role in the promotion of culture of human rights, democracy, and supervision of development programs, educational and informative assistance towards removing obstacles in the way of human development and sustainable development, and help and pay attention to vulnerable groups.

UN General Assembly Resolution 1161 states, "...a balanced and integrated economic and social development would contribute towards the promotion and maintenance of peace and security, social progress and better standards of living, and the observance of, and respect for, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all."

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence believes that being set free of fear and want is the fundamental right of any human being, and the improvement of public welfare is one of the best and effective ways to achieve development and respect human rights.
