



The 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development

Evening briefing for treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders

Hotel Epsom, Rue de Richemont 18, Geneva, Wednesday, 29 June 2011, 6.15 pm – 10:00pm

4 December 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development by the General Assembly in resolution 41/128. This right was reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.

A key objective in this anniversary year is to build a broader constituency around right to development and in this regard, reaching out to treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders is vital to achieving that objective. In this regard we would also like to inform you that on Friday, 20 May 2011, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted a landmark statement in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

The Declaration does not per se create legal obligations. However, a number of provisions in existing human rights treaties do implicitly recognize many of the key elements and requirements in the Declaration and there are considerable overlaps.

For special procedures, the link is more explicit as the right to development is the only right that is specifically mentioned in the resolution establishing the UN Human Rights Council (A/RES/60/251), providing a clear mandate for the consideration of the right to development in the work of various Council mechanisms.

In this briefing, the following questions will be explored:

1. How can treaty bodies and special procedures better promote the right to development in reporting of states parties', thematic and country reports, and in individual communications?
2. What are the challenges in incorporating right to development in the work of treaty bodies and special procedures and how can we deal with these challenges?
3. How can treaty bodies and special procedures actively support the open-ended Working Group on the right to development and its agenda?

This first briefing is meant as the beginning of a close engagement and support to right to development.

Please turn over for a detailed program.



Agenda

18.15	Gathering at venue, Hotel Epsom
18.30 – 18:40	Welcome – Mr. Matthes Buhbe, Director, Geneva Office, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
18:40 – 18:50	Presentation - Mr. Craig Mokhiber, Officer in Charge, Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch
18:50 – 19:00	Presentation - Mr. Ibrahim Salama, Director, Human Rights Treaties Division
19:00 – 19:15	Presentation - Mr. Nico Schrijver, Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights & former member of the High-level task force on the Implementation of the Right to Development
19:15 – 19:30	Presentation - Mr. Olivier de Schutter, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food
19:30 – 20:20	Discussion and Summary & next steps
20:20 – 20:30	Closing remarks
20:30 – 22:00	Buffet dinner
