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The Right to development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

1. The Working Group on the Right to Development and the High Level Task Force on the implementation of the Right to Development are currently considering the link among the MDGs (particularly goal 8) and the right to development and individuating criteria for the periodic evaluation of global partnership from the perspective of the right to development.

2. In the MDGs there is not a clear link and reference to human rights, a part from a reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Right to Development. It has been in fact a sort of separation in the international community among the definition of the policies of development and the reflection conducted within the human rights. The Declaration on the right to development historically belongs to the same cultural and political context that has produced the decades of the development. The limited juridical course of the one and the others have not allowed the vision that underwent, to clearly affirm itself in the policies and in the activities of the subjects that had to effect it, beginning from the States and the International Organizations.

3. Which are the possibilities for anchoring or to create a more narrow link between MDGs and human rights?

In first place it deals with setting a clear reference between the MDGs and the contained forecasts in the international actions on the human rights. Particularly it comes in evidence articles 25 and 26 of the UDHR that concern the right to health and to education and articles 11, 12 and 13 of the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights that specify the right to food, to adequate housing, to health and to education. To individuate the tools for evaluating the MDGs from a point of view of the approach of human rights, it should be considered the national Reports on the state of realization of the MDGs, that should assume such approach and not to confine themselves therefore to a mere statistic-quantitative evaluation.

A second tool is the consideration that States parties of the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights give to the MDGs in the context of the periodic consideration of State Reports.

4. In the goal 8) it comes above all in evidence the duty of cooperation that we find in the Declaration on the right to development and that recalls articles 1, 55 and 56 of the UN Charter. The WG on the right to development and the Task Force have started an interesting and full of perspectives dialogue with Organizations that have realized some partnerships and have started a method of evaluation of the same partnership, with the intent to insert the perspective of the right to development in such evaluations.

New Humanity positively considers such approach that turns him to the existing tools. At the same time it underlines the lack in the system of human rights of an independent mechanism that can appraise the action of single States and International Organizations under the profile of the right to development. Such mechanism should be open from a side to the possibility to introduce individual communications. On the other side it should also consider the responsibilities of non-state actors, whose action often has a meaningful incidence on the thematic ones of poverty and development.

5. New Humanity welcomes and sustains therefore the appointment of the Human Rights Council to give suitable space of consideration to the right to development in its Agenda, to continue the process of close examination in progress by the WG on the Right to development and the High Level Task Force.

New Humanity wishes that in the future realization of the Universal Periodic Review will be taken in consideration modalities of evaluation of the States based on the right to the development, to be coordinated with the examination conducted in the context of the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights .