



**STÄNDIGE VERTRETUNG DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND  
BEI DEM BÜRO DER VEREINTEN NATIONEN UND BEI DEN ANDEREN  
INTERNATIONALEN ORGANISATIONEN IN GENÈVE**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO THE OFFICE OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO THE OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA  
MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE AUPRÈS DE  
L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES A GENÈVE**

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(please quote in reply)  
Note No. 229

The Permanent Mission of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour with reference to the High Commissioner's verbal note of 12 August 2005 on the High Level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development to transmit attached written comments by the Federal German Government on the preliminary concept note on the High Level Task Force on the implementation on the right to development which was attached to the aforementioned verbal note of August 12.

The Permanent Mission of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 30 September 2005



To the  
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Geneva

**OHCHR REGISTRY**

**30 SEP 2005**

Recipients : CPG

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## **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development**

### **Remarks concerning the task force on the Right to Development**

We support and agree on the concept of the Right to Development as a vector right embracing all human rights as elaborated and presented by the former UN- Commission on Human Rights' Independent Expert on the Right to Development, Arjun Sengupta.

However, we would like to emphasize the fact that, as rightly recognized by the honourable Chairperson of the IGWG on the Right to Development, his Excellency Ambassador Ibrahim Salama of Egypt, that the Right to Development does not necessarily focus on international cooperation. Developing states themselves are in the position to contribute to the realization of the right to development, e.g. through legal reform processes since the Right to Development is concerned with both the process and the outcomes of development. We would not want to lose sight of the fact that even though the international community has the obligation to complementarily support developing states in their development efforts, the primary duty for granting an enabling environment to their people lies with the developing states concerned respectively.

Furthermore, we would like to make clear that the Right to Development does not entail any specific legal obligation of individual states vis-à-vis any other particular state but only establishes the obligation of the international community as whole, eventually presented by groups of states, to support and promote the development efforts of developing countries, particularly by creating an enabling international environment regarding issues such as trade, debts and human rights. This is correctly stated by the Honourable Chairperson in his article "The Right to Development: Towards a new approach?" kindly sent to us a few days ago when he reminds of the conclusions and recommendation of the IGWG, based on the task force's report.

We fully endorse the concept, that the Right to Development means "growth with equity" which is in line with the latest efforts of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development to implement a human rights based approach to development.

The right to development is closely linked with the concept of a human rights-based approach to development policy. Both concepts do not only attach importance to development outcomes, but also focus on the process of development laying emphasis on the implementation of accountability, non-discrimination, participation, transparency which are at the same time both, core principles for the protection of international human rights and also a central part of sustainable development policy..

The (human) rights based approach to development - although not yet a uniform concept - embodies the central elements of the right to development. Therefore the working group should bear in mind the work that is realized parallel to the work of the task force, i.e. the conceptual development of human rights based approaches to development and their operationalization both by bilateral and multilateral donors in development cooperation.

Coordinating trade, development, and human rights policies could contribute to a coherent approach so as to optimize the realization of human rights, including development and thus, the Right to Development. Linking trade, development and human rights policies could be both, one of the main challenges and at the same time one of the central contributions of this working group to a better realisation of human rights, more sustainable development cooperation and hence, a substantial contribution to realisation of the MDGs.