



Civil Society FfD Mechanism Statement on the Right to Development 40th Anniversary

The Declaration on the Right to Development proclaims that the right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. This premise stands at the very core of the Financing for Development (FfD) process.

In the context of the Declaration's 40th anniversary, the Civil Society Financing for Development Mechanism (CS FfD Mechanism) raises the importance and urgency of continuing to advance towards the principles adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1986, which remain as relevant today. Yet, decades after its recognition, structural inequalities in the international economic order continue to systematically constrain the ability of peoples and countries of the Global South to determine and pursue their own development pathways.

The realization of the Right to Development requires profound transformation of the inequitable dynamics of the international financial architecture. Unsustainable debt burdens, inadequate and conditional development finance, tax evasion, avoidance and other illicit financial flows, currency hierarchies and speculative capital movements, unequal trade rules and the concentration of decision-making power in international financial institutions continue to transfer resources and policy space from the Global South to the Global North. These are neither merely domestic development challenges nor technical economic policies. They are consequences of an international system that systematically reproduces asymmetries in wealth and power. Fulfilling the Right to Development requires addressing these structural inequities and constraints, including through democratic reform of global economic governance.

For the CS FfD Mechanism, advancing the Right to Development ultimately means transforming the structures that determine who has the resources, power and policy space to determine their own development paths. This is where the FfD process comes in – as a space to advance on the systemic changes we urgently need to see. The implementation of the Right to Development cannot be achieved without transforming the global economic and financial architecture that continues to reproduce dependencies and inequalities. It requires democratic, accountable and human-rights-based global economic governance, in which developing countries and peoples have an equal voice and in which international cooperation is oriented towards solidarity, justice and reparations, rather than conditionality, economic blockade, interventionism and extraction. The FfD process has a critical role to play in advancing this transformation by democratizing global economic policymaking and promoting the longstanding reforms necessary to expand fiscal and policy

space for all countries. The Right to Development offers a normative and aspirational framework that strengthens the historic calls for the right of all peoples to pursue and achieve economic, social and ecological development.