

Human Rights Council – 32st session
PANEL ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO
DEVELOPMENT: 30TH ANNIVERSARY
15 June 2016



Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development

Thank you Mr President.

I make this statement also on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative. We congratulate the Working Group on its Report.

Disagreements amongst states about whether the right to development is actually a human right cannot and must not be used as a distraction from the obligation of states to ensure constant improvement in the wellbeing of the entire population and of all individuals so that, in keeping with Article 8 of the Declaration, everyone can access their right to food, to health, to education as well as to adequate housing and employment and ensuring that women's human rights are respected.

We emphasise that it is the responsibility of states to actively demonstrate political will in creating the conditions for accessing these rights at both the national and international level. We remind the Council that since there can be no human rights without addressing human needs, the right to development, aimed at addressing human needs, is an integral part of all human rights.

Growing poverty and inequalities and their intersections with race, geography, age, disability and bodily autonomy and integrity must be arrested as part of the commitment of the international community to ensuring the rights of all people to dignity, freedom and equality.

Freedom from fear and want, can only be achieved if the correct conditions for the realisation of the right to development are in place. This requires states to:

1. Act collectively in global and regional partnerships to tackle the challenge of poverty and inequality and its consequences
2. Recognise, track and address the human rights implications of development and trade policies and programmes
3. Resist double standards, hypocrisy and selectivity in the recognition and respect for civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights
4. Facilitate a holistic approach to the issue of poverty and inequality by addressing its systemic and structural causes. These include patriarchy and heteronormativity, the crises in democracy, all types of extremism and fundamentalisms including economic and militarism and conflict.

Thank you Mr President.