

religious and cultural interests in a way that minimizes the risk of internal conflict.

In addition, my delegation welcomes the Working Group's emphasis on the need for good governance in order to fully implement the right to development. That right cannot truly be realized without respect for human rights and the rule of law; without the establishment and implementation of sound economic and social policies; without low levels of corruption in public life and effective mechanisms to deal with corruption when identified; without financial probity, accountability and transparency; and without appropriate levels of military expenditure and appropriate roles for the military in society. The absence of these elements inevitably stifles and diverts development efforts.

The implementation of the right to development must also take place under conditions of peace and security. Peace is the foundation of development, but the absence of peace is a sadly pervasive reality in too many parts of the world. There is a vicious circle here, for the lack of development contributes to international tension and to a perceived need for military power. The Secretary General's Agenda for Peace emphasized that an effective early warning system is essential to prevent outbreaks of conflict.

Insufficient coordination within the UN system was another obstacle to the realization of the right to development identified by the Working Group. Development is multidimensional in nature: economic and social development are two sides of the same coin.

In our own view, the High Commissioner for Human Rights has a major role to play in ensuring the integration of human rights machinery not only in the peace and security activities of the United Nations, but also in its development activities. The High Commissioner's mandate holds great promise in this regard, and we welcome his plans to establish appropriate working contacts with international financial institutions and development agencies, to encourage them to take account of the human rights dimensions of their work.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation believes that the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group merit careful consideration. We also recognize that the task yet before the Working Group is not an easy one. We will support the continuation of its mandate, but in so doing we hope that the Group will continue to proceed in a focused and pragmatic manner, in full cognizance of, and in full collaboration with, related efforts being pursued in other quarters of the UN system.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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