



Mr President,

The Lutheran World Federation highly commends the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development and his comprehensive conceptual and normative framework report, outlining his vision and the consultative steps that he has already undertaken and those that he plans to undertake to ensure an effective implementation of his mandate. We welcome the Special Rapporteur's commitment to active engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including the civil society, in an open, participatory, inclusive and collaborative manner.

We would like to highlight the long-standing experience and expertise that faith-based organisations and religious communities have in the field of development work. In recent years, awareness among policy-makers has increased that the nexus between religion and development needs to be more intentionally engaged to strengthen the post-2015 development framework. We acknowledge the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Engaging Faith-Based Actors for Sustainable Development and in raising this awareness among different stakeholders. Faith-based organisations are well placed in linking the local, the national and global levels of development work, and hence giving voice to the poor and the vulnerable people for whom the right to development is lagging behind the most as noted by Mr. Special Rapporteur.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

In light of your declared inclination toward facilitating access, inclusion, and participation of all relevant stakeholders in development work, and creating bridges and spaces for exchanges of good practises and lessons learned, my question to you is:

To what extent do you see faith-based organizations as development partners and could you elaborate a bit more on how you plan to include them in your upcoming consultations?

The Lutheran World Federation appreciates your vision and the concrete steps that you have undertaken and we look forward to engaging in dialogue with you.

I thank you Mr. President.