



Mister Chair,

Thank you for giving us the floor. This is a joint statement by CETIM and CAIS (Brazil).

As organisations working on the root causes of widespread maldevelopment and having acted with social movements and other civil society organisations to internationalise various local grassroots struggles worldwide, we have witnessed and denounced the setbacks of international development cooperation. On this, we can highlight three of the main obstacles to its effective implementation:

- 1- **The asymmetry of economic and political power that permeates North-South cooperation.** This is to say that development cooperation still nearly always operates within a top-down logic guided by the dominant neoliberal model of commodification of nature and profitability above all. In these processes, northern countries and/or development agencies, as donors, define the basis of the development project or programme to be carried out in the Global South, without an active, meaningful and effective participation of Southern local populations in decision making processes that will affect their lives.
- 2- **The failure to integrate the right to development into development cooperation mechanisms and policies.** Unless the RtD is effectively integrated into the international development cooperation apparatus, the latter is doomed to continue perpetuating inequalities and failing to solve the root causes of socioeconomic and environmental problems faced by most countries in the Global South.
- 3- **The lack of decolonised and democratic processes of knowledge production for the mainstreaming of the right to development.** Decolonised knowledge production implies an end to dependence on knowledge, vocabulary, theories and interpretations imposed by the dominant neoliberal policies. Development must be theorised and defined on the basis of the past and present experiences of communities and peoples, with traditional epistemologies of indigenous peoples, peasants and other traditional groups as a cornerstone.

Finally, when discussing the future of international development cooperation, we must work collectively to integrate the right-to-development framework into this agenda. This integration

will form the foundation for a much-needed paradigm shift in which development cooperation is grounded in the principles of decolonisation, self-determination, and the sovereignty of peoples.

Thank you very much.