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SOLIDARITY

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Chairperson, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to stand before you today for the first time as Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity. Today I will present to you a report ably drafted by my predecessor in the mandate, Ms. Virginia Dandan. As this is the first time that I will be making a statement to this body, as the holder of this mandate, I would like to start with a brief acknowledgment and overview of the work that has been done by the mandate holders who came before me, before elaborating on the specific subject matter of the report before you today. Finally, I will close by sharing a bit of my hopes for what I may be able to accomplish as mandate holder going forward.

Earlier this year, at the thirty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council, Ms. Dandan presented a report chronicling the history of this mandate and the activities undertaken by its holders since its inception. That report chronicled how, since its establishment in 2005, the mandate has promoted human rights and international solidarity around the world, contributed to the global dialogue around international cooperation and international solidarity, and conducted several country visits in order to explore the ways in which international solidarity and human rights manifest themselves in State practice.

Above all, however, the story of this mandate has been the story of the process of the drafting of the Draft Declaration on the right to international

solidarity, which Ms. Dandan presented as an annex to that report. This process began with the submission of a working paper on human rights and international solidarity by Mr. Rui Baltazar Dos Santos Alves to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of the Commission on Human Rights in 2004. It was continued through the work of the first Independent Expert, Mr. Rudi Muhammad Rizki, who gathered ideas on human rights and international solidarity from States, UN agencies, other international and regional organizations and civil society, and drew on those ideas to identify elements of a conceptual and normative framework of human rights and international solidarity. Ms. Dandan characterized the work conducted by these gentlemen as the “first phase” of the work of the mandate.

When she began as mandate holder in 2011, she launched the “second phase” of work – an in-depth examination of the relevant issues, principles, standards and norms that would shift the focus from the principle of international solidarity to the right to international solidarity. That being accomplished, she moved on to phase three: consolidating and analyzing the results of the previous two stages, writing and circulating a preliminary text of the Draft Declaration for consultation, consolidating additional comments and inputs that were received and finalizing the initial Draft Declaration for submission to the Council.

Accordingly, the Council and the world have now been presented with the Draft Declaration on the right to international solidarity. This document is the result of years of research and thoughtful consideration by those who have held this mandate before me, as well as significant input from States, civil society, and

leading scholars. It is an extraordinary document, which presents a genuine practical tool for the expansion of international solidarity and human rights around the world, with the ultimate goal of realizing what was promised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: a social and international order in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be realized.

Having completed the enormous task of developing this Draft Declaration, Ms. Dandan immediately moved to the task of demonstrating its utility by applying it to the work of the mandate. She conducted a country visit to Cuba, where she studied the manner in which Cuba's international cooperation and solidarity practices fit the principles enunciated in the Draft Declaration; I will have the honor of presenting the report of that visit to the Human Rights Council next year. Here, I would like to also take the opportunity to thank Sweden for accepting a visit by my mandate for next year. I would also like to inform you that I expressed interest in visiting Indonesia, Malawi, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania and hope to receive positive feedback from these countries. Ms. Dandan has also, in the report before you today, analyzed the applicability of the principles contained in the Draft Declaration to the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goal number 17, and it is to that report that I now turn.

In her report to the 69th Session of the General Assembly, Ms. Dandan explored the potential contributions of international solidarity to the formation of the then-nascent Sustainable Development Goals. Her report highlighted the importance of accomplishing the goals in a manner that reflects the responsibilities

of all States to live up to their human rights commitments, focusing on three areas of concern for the post-2015 agenda: overcoming inequality and ending poverty and discrimination; building effective and accountable institutions and peaceful societies; and international cooperation, including strengthening implementation and revitalizing global partnerships.

It is on this third area of concern, which eventually came to be reflected in SDG 17, that this report focuses. SDG 17 calls on States to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. Its targets relate to finance, technology, capacity-building, trade, and systemic issues (including policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships), and data, monitoring and accountability. SDG 17 is the result of the recognition by those who drafted the SDGs that a new global partnership is needed as “the most important transformative shift...towards a new spirit of solidarity, cooperation and mutual accountability that must underpin the post-2015 agenda.”

The 2030 Agenda thus recognizes that the global partnership, to ensure its implementation, must work in a spirit of global solidarity, especially solidarity with the poorest and with people in vulnerable situations. The Draft Declaration reinforces the existing international law on international cooperation and shared solutions based on the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities. But it also goes beyond these concepts with its recognition of the importance of preventive solidarity, which is aimed at proactively preventing and removing the root causes of inequalities between developed and developing countries and the

structural obstacles that generate poverty worldwide, and creating an overarching enabling environment in which all human rights can be realized.

Recognizing that resources are key to sustainable development, the first five targets of SDG 17 are concerned with finance. The Draft Declaration builds on existing human rights law requiring states to mobilize resources for the realization of human rights, including through international cooperation and assistance, such as Article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It emphasizes human rights-based international cooperation and an approach to international finance agreements that is consistent with human rights standards. It thus provides a framework for ensuring a human rights-based approach to the finance targets for Sustainable Development Goal 17.

The preventive solidarity required by the Draft Declaration includes a vision of shared technological endeavours aimed at finding a common solution to common problems and enabling each State to fulfil its human rights obligations. It is this vision that should animate the next set of targets under SDG 17, which deal with technology and capacity building. Similarly, the targets related to trade should reflect the Draft Declaration's call for a human rights-based approach to trade that ensures that benefits from trade are distributed in a manner consistent with human rights principles.

The final set of targets under Goal 17 is directed at systemic issues, including policy coordination and coherence, respect for policy space, multi-stakeholder partnerships and data, monitoring and accountability. Again, these targets must be achieved through a human rights-based approach. Respect for this overarching principle will generate policy coherence and ensure the participation and voice of all stakeholders, especially affected communities and the most vulnerable. The Draft Declaration, in setting out this human rights-based approach to international cooperation, enables the creation of an international system that addresses these systemic issues in their entirety.

The Draft Declaration on the right to international solidarity provides an anchor for global partnerships in which international commitments can be nurtured and advanced in a manner that is grounded in human rights law and in respect for human rights principles. To that end, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would call on your governments to incorporate the vision of the Draft Declaration in your efforts as you strive for the completion of the 2030 Agenda, in order to create a partnership that is truly global and development that is truly sustainable.

As I take up my tenure as the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, as mandated by the Human Rights Council, I will continue the work of my predecessor in promoting the importance of international solidarity in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recognizing the value that the Draft Declaration has for this agenda and more broadly for addressing all of our shared challenges and seeking to forge a social and international order in which human rights can be fully realized, I will prepare a

road map to assist States in the process of the adoption of the Draft Declaration by the Human Rights Council and by this Assembly.

I will also continue to study the practical realization of the right to international solidarity through country visits and the assessment of state practice and *opinio juris*, in order to continue to gather any available evidence of what the Human Rights Council has recognized as “an overwhelming manifestation of solidarity by States, individually and collectively, by civil society, by global social movements and by countless people of good will reaching out to others... commonly practised at the national, regional and international levels.”

I thank you for your attention today and I look forward to working with you over the course of my mandate.
