



SIKH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP
NGO with special consultative status at UN ECOSOC
E-mail: admin@shrg.net web site: www.shrg.net
89 South Rd, Southall, UNITED KINGDOM, UB1 1SQ

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Biennial Panel Discussion on the right to development

Theme: Covid 19 and the right to development

We thank the Panel for interesting and creative ideas to meet the right to development. We support any efforts to draw a line under the current debt owed by least developed countries and embark on a fresh start. We will suggest that World Bank buy the debt owed to private Global institutions and write it off with contribution from major developed countries such as the G20.

There are many reasons for the level of Debt accumulatio including corruption and inefficiency. People around the world work hard but are often let down by weak governance. We think there are ways to empower people to take ownership of their own development directly without affecting State sovereignty.

We invite the High commissioner and the Working group to commend thousands of civil society groups around the world who have worked hard and independently of States to care for, feed and help vulnerable people, the elderly and those facing poverty throughout this pandemic. We can say the Sikh community around the world has served millions of free food packages to people. Many other communities have worked as hard.

The UN system is big on rhetoric on civil society but somewhat restricted on active engagement with it. Through this Panel we urge the Working group on Right to Development to have an open door policy to civil society as NGOs and small groups often have some of the most innovative ideas on development as a right.