



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

## **45<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council – September 2020**

### **Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the expert mechanism on the right to development**

We welcome the Expert Mechanism on Right to Development and look forward to its work. It appears that the document HRC/29 is slightly weak on engagement with stakeholders and civil society using the words, ‘There was also a need...’

We think civil society is usually more creative than States in setting good practices in the right to development, as has been noted by the Special Rapporteur on right to Development and Report A/HRC/45/21.

While the UN is loud on the rhetoric on engagement with Civil society, the reality is limited and restrictive due to UN cultural attitudes and mechanisms. We hope the Experts will strive to deepen their engagement directly.

We wish to highlight the work of our Affiliate, Nishan-e-Sikhi Khadur Sahib. It is a remarkable example of a comprehensive self-sustaining project ranging from sustainable development, education, right to development, preserving biodiversity and combating climate change among others, without State Aid.

The project has integrated rights such as gender, race, religion, rights of the child, fair pay and so on with a right to development.

They have planted over 700000 trees, have a big biodiversity nursery, developing Jungles, running education institutions taking children from poor backgrounds, running academics to train aspirants from poor backgrounds to enter prime job market and helping surrounding villages to develop. It is a self-sustaining, self-financing project.

We welcome the Experts to visit this place in Punjab, India, to consider it as a template of best practice.