



## **BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY**

### **Right to Development**

Oral Statement to the

### **56th Commission on Human Rights**

### **Item 7: The Right to Development**

March 2000, United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Life itself is about constant change and exchange of energy which expresses itself through a process of physical, psychological, social and spiritual development. This has been the natural process of evolution and survival of the human being, before being considered as a right.

The right to development is an integral part of the right to life. However today's society based on production, profit and competition promotes an attitude which excludes large sections of that society.

In a world which is becoming more and more independent yet interdependent, it would be harmful and counter-productive not to create a dynamic equilibrium of initiatives and creativity amongst all of the actors in the system, in order to establish a culture of peace for every human being.

To guarantee the possibility for everyone's full development in life is an elevated ideal. To inspire, to make easier and to favour the other's development is more than a gesture of love; it is a deep recognition of the laws of creation, it is to lead a life fully conscious of one's responsibility on earth.

To give others the means by which to best develop their personal capabilities will rapidly lead towards the creation of an interactive system, which will be a source of harmony and of quality of life for all.

We have entered the age of communication and information, which has reduced the world to the size of a village and has brought all cultures closer than ever before. This phenomenon of globalisation requires from each one of us a demonstration of cooperation, solidarity and brotherhood, opening new horizons. This evolution of our conscience would enable everyone to realise that they need not be influenced by the conditioning of society or the media, so that they can then develop fully as a citizen of the world.

The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University has, for over 60 years, encouraged personal development of consciousness based on the recognition of one's own inner values and qualities, independent of nationality, culture, race, sex, or religion. This commitment and deep faith in the worth and dignity of every human being, uses a simple form of personal reflection which is accessible to all. It has enabled many individuals throughout the world to become free from negative and harmful tendencies that restrict their personal development.

Access to the basic rights to development is still denied to many individuals in the world. It is everyone's responsibility, including governments, to guarantee this right to development for every individual, even the most impoverished, in order to give him/her hope and a sense of purpose throughout his life.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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## **Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University**

The BKWSU is a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and in consultative status with UNICEF.

The University was founded in India in 1937 and has branches in over 100 countries worldwide.

It has been affiliated to the United Nations Department of Public Information since 1980.

[www.bkun.org](http://www.bkun.org)

### **OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS**

Suite 436  
866, UN Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
**U.S.A.**  
Tel.: +1-212-688-1335  
Fax.: +1-212-504-2798  
[bkun@bkwsu.org](mailto:bkun@bkwsu.org)

### **HEADQUARTERS**

Pandav Bhawan  
Mount Abu 307501  
Rajasthan  
**India**  
Tel.: +91-2974-238261  
Fax.: +91-2974-238952  
[abu@bkivv.org](mailto:abu@bkivv.org)

### **INTL. COORDINATING OFFICE**

Global Cooperation House  
65-69 Pound Lane  
London NW10 2HH  
**U.K.**  
Tel.: +44-20-8727-3350  
Fax.: +44-20-8727-3351  
[london@bkwsu.org](mailto:london@bkwsu.org)

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