



HRC45 NGO Oral Statement Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development 16 September 2020

Statement: New report reaffirms State obligation to deliver social services and dangers of privatisation

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development addressing national financing for development. We wish to highlight his call for States to strengthen existing public delivery of social services.

We echo the Special Rapporteur's concern with the privatisation and financialisation of social services, which centres profits rather than the universal enjoyment of human rights. The dangers of privatisation, particularly for the rights to [education](#) and [health](#), are well-documented and have been amplified by the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). This crisis has revealed the vulnerability of systems overly reliant on private sector for the delivery of social services. For instance, experts have [flagged](#) the looming collapse of low fee private schools which would result in sudden, overwhelming pressure on public schools.

We also welcome the caution of the Special Rapporteur against public-private partnerships, particularly in public services. Indeed, the [evidence](#) has consistently shown that these arrangements tend to exclude the poor and marginalised.

Like the Special Rapporteur, we have noted the concerning push from development finance institutions for States to privatise the provision of public services.

We urge States abide by their obligations under international law for the delivery of social services. UN human rights mechanisms affirm that the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights requires States to establish **quality, transparent, gender-responsive, democratically governed public services**. This is also essential for tackling inequality and building resilience in times of crisis.

I thank you.

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