



Explanation of Vote before the Vote, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmed, during adoption of the draft resolution entitled “Right To Development”

54th HRC Session

13 October 2023

Mr. President,

We firmly believe that Right to development is one of the key fundamental human rights and must be treated in line with the spirit of VDPA, which states all “human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated” and must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis.

Considering its unique nature in terms of its contribution to uplifting people’s living standards and meet their essential needs, the importance of right to development in achieving 2030 agenda is an undeniable fact.

The impact of COVID 19 and other natural calamities has only underlined the importance of operationalizing the right to development.

Unfortunately, right to development lacks an international covenant on the same footing alike civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Despite years of discussions, the international community has failed to address this legal gap.

Bridging this gap, the Council had requested the Chair-Rapporteur of the IGWG on the right to development to submit a second revised draft convention on the right to development to submit the final draft text of the convention to the Council.

After years of deliberations, the Working Group has reached an important juncture. We recognize efforts of member states during deliberations of the Working Group and thanks the Chair-Rapporteur for presenting the revised “draft international covenant on the right to development”. We also acknowledge efforts of the legal experts.

The draft text of the legally binding instrument represents a major breakthrough as it encapsulates key elements that remain pivotal for promoting sustained development and operationalizing the right to development.

The salience and urgency of such a legally binding instrument is evident given the unprecedented socio-economic and development challenges exacerbated by climate change, the global pandemic, natural calamities, global financial crunch and geopolitical developments.

The legally binding instrument would bring the right to development at par with the normative framework on other human rights including civil, political, economic, social and cultural right



and would also contribute in strengthening the rules-based international economic and financial order.

We echo the decision of transmitting the text to New York, as the UNGA with its universal membership is an appropriate forum for further discussions on the text.

We thank, **Azerbaijan**, as the Chair of NAM Group, for its efforts towards this shared cause.

We request all Member States to support this draft resolution.

I thank you!