



Statement on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan during High-level Meeting Commemorating the Thirty-Fifth Anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development

1 March 2023

Madam Vice President,

The OIC thanks all the panelists for their contributions, highlighting the inalienability and significance of the right to development. We trust that deliberations at the high-level event help identify steps to overcome obstacles in effectively operationalizing the right to development.

In keeping with the spirit of the Vienna Declaration, we reaffirm that all human rights are indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated. The OIC reiterates its call for greater integration of the right to development into the international human rights framework.

As we commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, the OIC strongly reaffirms its commitment to promoting the enjoyment and realization of the right to development. In line with the spirit of the Declaration, we recognize that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural, and political process that aims at improving living standards and making development a reality for everyone, everywhere. The key principles of the declaration must be codified and reflected in the draft legally binding instrument on the right to development.

The current global landscape represents a somber reality with widening disparities, inequalities, and dwindling ODA levels. The unprecedented socio-economic impacts of liquidity crunch, energy crisis, and food insecurity, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic and devastating effects of natural calamities, have once again called for addressing systemic challenges, such as inequity, in the global financial and development architecture. In addition to the erosion of decades of development gains, these challenges have undermined the capacities of states, especially of developing and least developing states, to invest in human development and sustainable infrastructure.

Madam Vice President,

We emphasize the need for redoubling efforts to promote better standards of life through scaled-up partnerships and international cooperation, including fulfilling commitments related to financing for development, climate adaptation, mitigation, and revisiting the present global, financial, and taxation regime.



The growing challenges of poverty, public health, food security, and resource-lessness to provide a better future for most of humanity should not be left to a conceptual gridlock on what “Right to Development” means. The situation demands greater international solidarity to protect people and the planet.

The OIC reiterates its call for early conclusion of ongoing discussions at the Intergovernmental Working Group on the text of the draft legally binding instrument on the Right to Development.

I thank you.