



25th Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development

National Statement delivered by Amb. Bilal Ahmad, Permanent Representative

(Geneva, 13 May 2024)

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

Pakistan congratulates you on your re-election and appreciates your efforts to steer this Working Group towards greater success in its important mandate.

We commend the proactive roles of Uganda and Azerbaijan in their respective capacity as the current and former Chairs of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), for their contributions to the success of this Working Group.

My delegation also greatly appreciates the work of the drafting committee – and the support provided by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) – in preparing the text of the International Covenant on the Right to Development now under consideration in New York.

Pakistan emphasises the mutually reinforcing linkages between the right to development and other human rights.

After years of deliberations by this working group, the right to development is finally poised to be at par with the existing normative framework for other human rights.

With all human rights indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated, Pakistan reiterates its call for greater integration of the right to development into the international human rights framework.

The right to development remains the missing piece of the puzzle to reinvigorate the international multilateral system, and strengthen the global economic and financial order.

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

The 25th meeting of this Working Group – its silver jubilee – is taking place at a time of widespread socioeconomic hardship and mounting strife and conflict.

The fruits of development – built upon the right to determine the course of that development and contribute towards it – remain out of reach for far too many.

In Pakistan, our efforts to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate induced and other natural disasters have to contend with global economic headwinds like surging inflation, rising energy costs and food insecurity.

Rebuilding economies and societies to uphold all human rights – including the right to development – demands greater international collaboration and investment. Artificial barriers to cooperation and dwindling levels of development assistance must not block sustainable and inclusive development.

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

Pakistan looks forward to the growing conversation on how best to address bottlenecks in the global economic, financial and taxation architecture to accelerate progress towards our shared development aspirations.

A conversation on the impact of existing international economic architecture is a conversation on protection of all human rights, especially the right to development. Such a thematic focus is relevant to the mandate of this working group.

We appreciate the High Commissioner for according the due priority to the right to development as a core part of his mandate.

My delegation trusts that a well-resourced and concerted effort – backed by enduring political will – would shrink development gaps and strengthen the ability of all states to realize the right to development.

Pakistan will continue to extend its full support to the Chair Rapporteur in fulfilling the urgent and critical mandate of this Working Group.

Thank you.

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