



Statement, delivered on behalf of the OIC by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative during the Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development at 48th Session of Human Rights Council

16 September 2021

Madam President,

The OIC Member States thank the members of the Expert Mechanism for their report, rightly highlighting the urgency of operationalizing the right to development.

We agree there is a need to go beyond rhetoric in honoring our commitments under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Plan.

The OIC believes that operationalization of the right to development is essential both for human development and the universal enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. In line with the spirit of VDPA, the OIC reaffirms the importance of protection, promotion and enjoyment of all human rights in a fair and equal manner, and with the same emphasis and everywhere.

We agree with the Mechanism that COVID-19 pandemic has “brought the entire world to a grinding halt”, exacerbating the existing inequalities and eroding development gains. Rising external debts, resource constraints and absence of sustained financing have undermined the capacities of states especially the developing countries to revive economic growth in order to meaningfully contribute towards the realization and enjoyment of their rights.

The growing gap between longstanding development needs and the dwindling level of financing means necessitates revival and demonstration of greater political commitment by all states, global institutions and the private sector. The OIC echoes the Expert Mechanism’s call to work collectively and overcome obstacles that are impeding progress in achieving SDGs both through national efforts as well as enhanced international cooperation including through debt relief, fulfilling commitments under ODA as well promoting access to international financing for development.

The OIC would appreciate views of the Expert Mechanism on how repatriation of stolen assets to countries of origin and stemming illicit financial out flows from developing countries can contribute to operationalizing the right to development?

I thank you.