



Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, at 22nd Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development

22 November 2021

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the OIC member states, we congratulate you on your re-election as the Chair-Rapporteur of this Working Group.

As we commence our deliberations on the eve of the 35th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, the OIC reaffirms its commitment and calls for the realization of this fundamental right. The ideals of the Declaration demand redoubling of efforts to promote better standards of life for everyone through scaled up partnerships and international cooperation.

In keeping with the spirit of 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.

Mr. Chair,

The world is grappling with unprecedented socio-economic challenges exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts to counter the growing inequalities, poverty, malnutrition, lack of access to food, shelter and safe drinking water among and within countries and communities continue to be hampered by inadequacy and lack of mobilization of financing for development. We are witnessing dwindling Official development Assistance (ODA) levels, increasing liquidity crunch and rising external debts.

The falling back into extreme poverty of 150 million people, the glaring vaccine inequity and the loss of 250 million jobs are just a few examples of the deepening inequalities induced by COVID-pandemic.

Mr. Chair,

These grim realities underscore the widening global development deficit. The OIC, therefore, once again underlines the need for demonstration of political will, fulfillment of commitments and revisiting of the existing international economic and financial architecture in order to realize the right to development.

While states have the primary responsibility to promote human rights, states, UN system, international financial institutions have a collective responsibility to align international development policies in ways that help in the realization of the right to development. Therefore, it is now more critical and urgent than ever to help mobilize greater liquidity, debt sustainability,



fiscal space and to align the global financial and economic architecture with the realization and operationalization of the right to development.

We trust that all stakeholders will engage constructively on the text of the draft legally binding instrument and demonstrate the will to help bridge the gaps and strengthen capacities of states in operationalizing the right to development.

The OIC assures its full support and cooperation to the Chair-Rapporteur in fulfilling the mandate of the Working Group.

I thank you.