



National Statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan during the 23rd Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development

16 May 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

While aligning our position with NAM and OIC statements, I have honour to deliver additional remarks in our national capacity.

We congratulate you, Ambassador Zamir Akram on your re-election as Chair-Rapporteur of this Working Group.

We deeply value your leadership of this important mechanism, including presentation of the revised draft Convention on the right to development. We are heartened by the fact that the draft revised text is a product that has emerged after extensive engagement across regions as well as reflective of discussions in the Working Group sessions.

We also applaud the valuable work of the Drafting Committee and the support provided by the Office of the High Commissioner.

Despite divergences, decades of deliberations have helped, clarify, conceptualize and strengthen the normative framework on the right to development. Text-based negotiations and a draft text represent a major breakthrough in operationalizing this salient right for everyone, everywhere.

Mr. Chairperson,

The revised draft text aptly contextualizes all relevant aspects of the right to development, incorporates the essence of important universal principles, outlines pathways to overcome challenges and emphasizes the significant role of international cooperation. The text before the Working Group is also in line with principles enshrined in international human rights law including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Declaration on the Right to Development, ICCPR, ICESCR and Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We welcome the integration of key factors and drivers of sustainable development into the revised text. This would be a key enabler of operationalizing the right to development.



Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to reiterate the organic linkage between the mutually reinforcing dimensions of the right to development and other human rights. It remains critical to codify this inalienable right at an early date through a legally binding instrument as a means to advance its operationalization and strengthen the rules-based international economic and financial order.

As we are engaged in discussions, the global socio-economic landscape presents a sobering picture with growing inequalities between and among states and erosion of decades of development gains as a result of COVID pandemic effects. Unfortunately, persistent lack of political will and commitment to mobilize resources are impeding global progress towards sustained economic recovery with severe consequences for the developing and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Reduced fiscal space, growing debt burdens and liquidity crunch, have undermined efforts to alleviate extreme poverty, provide decent work and ensure access to health and education.

Mr. Chairperson,

The path to economic recovery and achievement of SDGs is admittedly difficult and long. Yet it is achievable given demonstration of requisite commitment. It requires transformational actions and political will to deal with these systemic issues through greater cooperation, transparency in international financial order and by fulfilling commitments on financing for development.

We urge everyone to redouble engagement in the process of negotiations on the draft Convention.

We stand ready to do our part.

I thank you.