



**National statement delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary,  
during the General Debate of the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Expert Mechanism on  
the Right to Development**

(Geneva, 28 October 2024)

Distinguished Chair of the Expert Mechanism,

Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

My delegation commends the Expert Mechanism's contributions to greater international understanding of and appreciation for the right to development alongside other human rights.

Pakistan accords high importance to the right to development and reiterates the centrality of the right to development as a fundamental human right – interlinked with and indivisible from all other human rights.

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.

The operationalization and effective realization of this right remains crucial to fulfil the human rights of all individuals, especially those in vulnerable situations.

In this regard, we appreciate the Expert Mechanism's study for underscoring the close linkage between the right of development and the right to self-determination.

It is clear that promises of economic investment or development can never be a substitute for a people's rights to self-determination and development alongside all other human rights.

Prior thematic studies on climate justice have continued significance given increasing climate catastrophes across the globe. There is a pressing need to examine the relationship between climate cooperation and development cooperation without substituting one for the other.

My delegation likewise looks forward to the presentation of the thematic study on the right to development and international development cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

AI and related technologies are being deployed at a breakneck pace. While these trends have the immense potential to improve living standards, they are also fraught with risks of misuse. We therefore welcome the discussions scheduled to take place over the coming days that shed light important aspects of the right to development and, among an array of urgent and important topics, AI.

We are certain this meeting will underscore the interrelationship and interdependence between the right to development alongside other human rights, and look forward to meaningful engagement by all.

Thank you.