26th Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development

National Statement delivered by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during General Segment

(Geneva, 12 May 2025)

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

Pakistan aligns with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Pakistan congratulates you on your re-election and commends your continued efforts over the past decade to steer this Working Group in its vital mandate to monitor and review progress in the implementation of the right to development.

We note with appreciation the proactive role of the NAM with Uganda as the Chair in carrying forward the success of this Working Group during its 26th session, and thank the Secretariat for its continued support.

Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the promotion and protection of the right to development, an inalienable human right that ties together all human rights through the principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence.

Realising the right to development, in all its dimensions, is essential for the realization of human dignity and global progress towards inclusive development for all, leaving no one behind.

To this end, the early adoption of a legally binding instrument on the Right to Development by the UN General Assembly is key to the timely operationalisation of the right to development.

While consolidating international human rights obligations to uphold, promote and protect the right to development, the Covenant would also revitalise our shared pursuit of sustainable development and add impetus to the actions outlined in the Pact for the Future.

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

The 26th meeting of this Working Group is taking place at a time of growing global inequity, socioeconomic hardship and mounting conflict.

The fruits of development remain out of reach for far too many.

Poverty; debt burdens; inequality within and across countries; climate change; racism and racial discrimination; conflicts, aggression and threats to national sovereignty; and denial

of right to self-determination constitute major impedments to states' efforts to promote and protect human rights.

In Pakistan, the Government has made focused efforts towards fiscal consolidation and macroeconomic stabilisation while protecting the most vulnerable segments of society through targetted interventions.

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, these efforts are expected to yield important progress.

Recent events have demonstrated, however, that progress in the realisation of human rights remains at risk of reversal and the whims of zero-sum geopolitics.

War-mongering, hatred and the weaponisation of natural resources may yield short-term electoral gains for politics of fear, but only at the expense of regional peace and stability, which are essential pre-requisites for human rights, as observed by the High Commissioner this morning.

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

Over the course of this meeting of the Working Group, Pakistan looks forward to the growing conversation on how best to overcome structural challenges to accelerate progress towards our shared development aspirations.

Conversations around reform of the international financial and economic architecture, debt and funds of illicit origin, are integral complements to states' efforts to promote and protect all human rights.

We hope and expect that the Office of the High Commissioner would continue to allocate the resources that this Working Group requires to fulfill its important mandate. A well-resourced and concerted effort is essential for bridging development gaps and strengthening the ability of all states to realize the right to development.

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

In fulfilling the vital mandate of this Working Group, you may continue to count on Pakistan's full support.

Thank you.

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