National Statement by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, during General Segment of the 25th meeting of the DDPA implementation IGWG

(Geneva, 2 February 2026)

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

Pakistan joins other delegations in congratulating Your Excellency on your re-election.

We are grateful for your continued stewardship of this process and assure you of our support and engagement as we work to implement our mandate, including with regards to the 25th anniversary of the Durban Declaration of the Programme of Action (DDPA) under UNGA resolution 76/226.

We appreciate efforts to help advance this Working Group's collective understanding of collective rights, which remain an important aspect of our work. We also look forward to the presentations and panel discussions scheduled during this 25th session.

As noted by other speakers before us, the mandate of this intergovernmental process has never been more important at a time of rising racism and related intolerance. Politics of social division, geopolitical tension and economic hardship are fuelling this alarming rise.

Propaganda for war and incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence – including so-called "culture war" or "civilizational" conflict – are re-emerging from the shadows despite having been prohibited by international human rights law

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

Pakistan remains gravely concerned by uneven protection for victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Where legal protections may exist, the instrumentalization of religious hatred seeks to exploit loopholes to advance, mainstream and entrench racist narratives.

Online echo chambers can turn social media into a megaphone for amplifying disinformation, negative stereotypes and hatred. The misuse of social media, algorithmic bias and AI-generated content can also undercut the effectiveness of traditional approaches such as outreach or engagement strategies.

Adverse impacts of historic injustices such as the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism and systemic and structural racism and racial discrimination are thus compounded, particularly for persons of African descent, Muslims or other communities.

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

We look forward to continuing the second reading of the draft UN Declaration on the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of people of African descent.

We share the African Group's affirmation of the abiding relevance and validity of the DDPA and the urgent necessity of reparatory justice.

Pakistan remains convinced that the draft Declaration's adoption would renew momentum towards realising the DDPA's goal of a world free from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.

Thank you.

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